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United States & Canada

Moiseyev Receives Canadian Military Aide

PM1803144791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 14 Mar 91 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] On 13 March Army General M.A. Moiseyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister, received a Canadian military delegation headed by Major General D. Makinnis [name as transliterated], assistant to the Canadian National Defense minister. Questions of the state of Soviet-Canadian relations in the military sphere were examined during an exchange of opinions. Particular attention was paid to work on an agreement on preventing dangerous military activity. This should make it possible both to reduce the possibility of incidents between the armed forces of both countries while carrying out routine activity in close proximity, and to continue improving Soviet-Canadian relations in the military sphere.

M. Bell, Canadian ambassador to the USSR, was present at the conversation, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

U.S. Poll Shows USSR Among 'Most Favored' Countries

PM1903160791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Mar 91 Union Edition p 5

[A. Blinov report: "According to Gallup Institute Data: Evaluations Have Changed"]

[Text] Washington—"The mentality of the U.S. population and that of its leaders has changed. The 'cold war' and Soviet-U.S. rivalry are no longer at the center of their attention, which is focused on a new era of global economic competition,"—such is the conclusion reached by the authors of a report on the attitude of the U.S. population to foreign policy problems, produced by an influential public organization, the Chicago Foreign Policy Council.

The report is based on the results of a poll of Americans conducted throughout 1990 by experts from the internationally renowned Gallup Institute.

The poll shows that the end of the "cold war" has had a profound influence on how Americans see the outside world. This primarily concerns their attitudes to the USSR. "Americans no longer see the Soviet Union as their main opponent, but as one of the three most important countries of vital importance for the United States," the report says.

The poll found that 34 percent of Americans follow events in the Soviet Union "very attentively," and another 41 percent devote "comparatively great attention" to it. Approximately only one American in five expresses "concern" over the state of relations between the USSR and the United States, whereas just four years ago almost one in two Americans expressed such an

evaluation. Only one American in three believes that the USSR may present a "critical threat" for the United States within the next 10 years. Amongst the most informed people occupying responsible posts—the authors of the poll class them in the category of "leaders"—only one in five holds such a position.

The initiators of the research asked Americans to assess their perception of the importance of various countries according to a sort of "thermometer of popularity"—the higher the reading, the "warmer" the attitude to that country. "The most striking change in the four-year period is the Soviet Union's jump above 27 points, attesting to approval of perestroika, glasnost, and the policy of international cooperation being pursued by this country.... Today's reading—59 points—puts the USSR among Americans' most favored countries."

The approach of Americans to important specific issues of U.S.-Soviet relations has also changed—in favor of developing cooperation. Now 56 percent of Americans oppose vetoes in the sphere of scientific exchange and only 28 percent remain in favor of restrictions in the sphere of trade. 82 percent consider it necessary to continue talks on concluding agreements in the sphere of arms control.

Among the figures whom the authors class as "leaders", the proportion of supporters of Soviet-U.S. cooperation is even greater. Among these people, 91 percent are against trade restrictions and 99 percent for agreement in the arms control sphere; 70 percent favor "offering the Soviet Union economic aid to modernize its economy."

China

Soviets Stage Air Show at Beijing Airfield

PM0204122391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
25 Mar 91 Union Edition p 5

[Yu. Savenkov report: "Our Pilots in Beijing's Skies"]

[Text] Beijing—A display of Soviet aviation equipment took place at the Beijing Nanyuan Airfield, south of the Chinese capital, Friday morning [22 March]. Li Yongtai, deputy commander of the PRC Air Force, who opened the air display, expressed appreciation to the Soviet specialists who, despite being tired, agreed to stop over in Beijing en route home from the International Air Show in Manila and to perform demonstration flights.

Li Yongtai spoke about the high standards of Soviet science and technology, the skill of our pilots, and the role which cooperation between airmen is playing in promoting mutual understanding between our two peoples. Our delegation included top specialists—designers, plant directors, and test pilots. The demonstration flights in Beijing's skies were watched by the most authoritative Chinese experts, while on the other side of the airfield inhabitants of neighboring settlements were also enjoying the show which was opened by our An-72.

World champion Yurgis Kayris demonstrated wonderful aerobatic maneuvers on the yellow-green sports Su-26. An unexpected cascade, which he calls "abracadabra", evoked a stormy applause from the audience which fully appreciated all the finer points of aerobatic skill. All this took place in conditions of poor visibility (a haze hung in the air), and the Chinese professionals rated highly the skill of the Soviet aces. The advanced aerobatic maneuvers also included the "tail-slide" [kolokol] demonstrated on a Mig-29. And finally, the famous "snake-bite" [kobra] performed by world-famous ace Viktor Pugachev on the Su-27, hanging in the sky at minimum speed.

Combat, training, transport, and sports aircraft were demonstrated in Beijing. Let me recall that Soviet-Chinese technical cooperation in civil aviation, which underwent rapid development in the fifties, kept ticking over even when ideological polemics between our countries were at their bitterest. Of late, deliveries of our aircraft equipment (Tu-154M and Yak-42) have been playing a substantial role in our exports. Now, it seems, this sphere of our technical cooperation is beginning to take on new outlines.

M.P. Simonov, chief designer of the P.O. Sukhoi Design Bureau, to whom I talked during the demonstration flights, noted the pleasing fact that, for the first time in many years, the Chinese side had allowed all our aircraft which had taken part in the air show in Manila to overfly Chinese territory and to land. Incidentally, according to him, specialists were able to see for themselves the special qualities of the Su-27—its maneuverability and long range: 3,200 km without landing and refueling, which is simply unique.

"Professionally speaking, how do you rate what has just taken place in Beijing's skies?", I asked A.N. Gerashchenko, USSR first deputy minister of the aviation industry, who was heading our delegation.

"Any aviation equipment display is good publicity," Aleksandr Nikolayevich replied. "Our creed is to display the equipment which we are prepared to sell. China is no exception. My Chinese colleagues set me a precise task—to enable them once again to take a close look at our equipment. They are not quite sure about certain points. But as for the Su-27, a contract has been signed and deliveries will begin at the end of this year. They have also shown interest in some of our transport aircraft. Incidentally, we did not expect at all that they would be interested in our 'Ruslan' (An-124). They also liked our sports aircraft. Especially when they learned that the Americans have bought several machines. One more detail: Chinese pilots flew the Su-25 and Su-27. They liked them. In short, the 'viewing' is over. Now it is time to get down to brass tacks."

Commentary Examines Developing Bilateral Ties

LD3103164991 Moscow World Service in English
1310 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Aleksy Kondratyev commentary]

[Text] It is quite obvious that the creation of a system of collective security in the Asian-Pacific region includes as

significant components the Soviet and the Chinese factors, the state of relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of China. How are ties developing between the two countries? Our commentator Aleksy Kondratyev writes that these ties have notably revived and now cover such areas as the economy, foreign policy, the military sphere and inter-party contacts.

The regional cooperation is developing successfully. There is an apparent desire of the two countries for good-neighborliness due to political, economic, and military-strategic interests, and to simple common sense. The not-so-remote bitter experience of a total confrontation has clearly convinced Moscow and Beijing that it is better not to have conflicts but to cooperate instead, and that is very important primarily for the Asian and Pacific region. For example, it is hard to overestimate such facts that stability is being restored along the very long borders between these two nuclear powers at long last.

I would like to note another striking point. The tonality of the contacts between the two countries has radically changed. The tonality no longer has in the least a desire to teach, to display ambition, and the prevailing things are concrete accords, a businesslike approach, and mutual respect.

Both the Soviet and the Chinese sides are quite satisfied with their deeper cooperation. A few days ago China's Premier Li Peng spoke highly about the state of Soviet-Chinese relations. He stressed in his report at the opening of another session of the Chinese parliament that maintenance of normal relations, development of friendship, and good-neighborly ties are becoming especially important for the USSR and China. He added that the two sides must themselves determine the paths of their own domestic development without interference in one another's affairs and respecting the choice of their own peoples.

One can assume that soon the development of Soviet-Chinese ties will become faster. This coming May there will be an official visit to Moscow by the party and state leader of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zemin. Preparations for this visit are on the agenda of talks in Beijing between the Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and his Chinese colleagues.

Rear Admiral Advocates PRC Military Cooperation

OW1703181691 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 1000 GMT 16 Mar 91

[From the "Taking the Road of Friendship and Cooperation" feature]

[Text] Dear listeners and friends, full normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations also involves military cooperation between the two countries.

Rear Admiral Vladimir Z. Khuzhokov, chief of the External Relations Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense, commented on the level of Soviet-Chinese military cooperation.

Rear Admiral Khuzhokov said: I am very satisfied that Soviet-Chinese military relations are constantly developing. President Gorbachev visited China in 1989, establishing a beginning for the process of this development. A bit later, as proposed by China, the Soviet Union and China sent respective delegations for international relations under their separate defense ministries to visit each other. This was the beginning of resumed contacts between the military personnel of the two countries after the stage of alienation and conflict. Now, we can only regret that so much time was lost. We agree with the Chinese leaders' remarks at the Soviet-Chinese Summit in May 1989: Shut off the past and open up the future. Our exchanges have shown that both sides acutely feel that the two countries must resume cooperation, including military cooperation.

On the current level of Soviet-Chinese military relations, Rear Admiral Khuzhokov said: There are regularity and stability in the relations with Chinese associates. These two factors have been programmed in the plans. We have already sent many delegations from various departments under our respective defense ministries to visit each other. Our plans have also stipulated other forms of cooperation. I would like to emphatically point out: The results of the development of our bilateral relations at this stage are very satisfactory.

In our station's program earlier, Rear Admiral Khuzhokov had talked about his impressions on his visit to China and his thoughts about the meetings with his Chinese associates, the Chinese veterans, and the Chinese comrades who graduated from the USSR Military Academy. He stressed: These were meetings among friends. Both parties have had many common memories and there were many valuable and memorable incidents. Khuzhokov continued: China is very excited that Marshal (Kojituku) of the air force, our Soviet hero who is renowned from far and near, will visit China. Today, he is the symbol of our friendship, the friendship between the armed forces of the two countries.

On the significance of Soviet-Chinese military relations, Rear Admiral Khuzhokov said: We are establishing ties with Chinese military forces by the same principles that we applied when we were establishing relations with other countries. Our bilateral cooperation, including military cooperation, shows that the two countries have achieved a very high level of trust. The military ties have further strengthened the solidarity of the bilateral relations between the two countries. Except for these factors, countries will find it very difficult to pursue their own foreign policies. Therefore, contacts among military departments have become an important tool of their national foreign policies. This practice further solidifies the relations among the countries.

Rear Admiral Khuzhokov concluded: It is with this belief that we are making exchanges in military affairs with China.

Progress in Bilateral Relations Surveyed

PM1902154591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
14 Feb 91 Second Edition p 5

[Article by candidate of economic sciences A. Vasilyev: "USSR-PRC: After Many Years of Estrangement: Results of and Outlook for Soviet-Chinese Relations"]

[Text] Few events that are called historic as soon as they occur do not lose the right to this epithet as time goes by and are not eclipsed by other major and momentous developments. The normalization of relations between the USSR and the PRC is one such event.

The months since M.S. Gorbachev's visit to the PRC, which have seen so many changes in the USSR, China, and the world, have confirmed that the Beijing "summit" was a watershed. The Soviet-Chinese communique of 18 May 1989 which based bilateral relations on universal principles—mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, nonaggression, nonintervention in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual advantage, and peaceful coexistence—has passed the test of durability. Summit-level contacts have been initiated. A boost has been given to talks on the final issues inherited from the past—on the line of the border and on the mutual reduction of armed forces and confidence-building measures in the border region.

It can be stated with certainty that a great distance has been covered in these months.

The main mechanisms of Soviet-Chinese relations have been set up, and their "pillars" have been determined. The links between top USSR and PRC leaders are becoming systematic. The fruitful visit to the USSR in April 1990 by PRC State Council Premier Li Peng was a continuation of the personal contact between them. Correspondence between state leaders has become an important channel. A recent example is M.S. Gorbachev's message to the Chinese leaders concerning the start of war in the Persian Gulf. Last year was the most "productive" as regards the number of meetings between foreign ministers—there were five. The Soviet and Chinese Foreign Ministries conducted on a planned basis consultations on current international problems and questions of the development of bilateral relations. Diplomatic representation has been widened: It was decided that in 1990 the embassies in the capitals and the consulates general in Leningrad and Shanghai would be supplemented by consulates general in Khabarovsk and Shenyang.

Diverse contacts have been established between organs of power, social organizations, and citizens. Legislators have contributed considerably to deepening bilateral relations, and the pace of cooperation between the committees and commissions of legislative bodies and people's deputies has increased. Contacts between the CPSU and the CPC have been stepped up, allowing a more detailed understanding of the situation in both countries. Trips with full programs have taken place for young people's, women's, and veterans' delegations. The revival of regional links, particularly between the Central Asian republics and Xinjiang and between the Far

Eastern krais and oblasts and the northeastern provinces of the PRC, has been noteworthy.

The USSR and China have moved forward in building a treaty basis for their relations. This is borne out by a simple list of the documents signed in 1990, including the Agreement on Guiding Principles for the Mutual Reduction of Armed Forces and Strengthening of Trust in the Military Sphere in the Soviet-Chinese Border Region. Along with the long-term program of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and agreements on cooperation in the study and use of space for peaceful purposes, on the encouragement and mutual protection of capital investments, and on avoiding double taxation in respect of taxes on income.

An upsurge has been observed in most of the traditional areas of cooperation. Thus, the value of trade with the PRC increased from 1.85 billion rubles [R] in 1988 to R2.4 billion in 1989, and in 1990, according to preliminary data, it stood at R2.7 billion. The increase in the proportion of border and interregional trade, which now comprises a fifth of Soviet-Chinese commodity turnover.

The 1990 agenda was enriched with new spheres: cooperation between organs of justice and customs services and between military departments in the sphere of conversion, and the granting of government credits.

The tone of the dialogue between our countries has been defined. It is characterized by tact and politeness, by a businesslike and amicable approach, and by an absence of lecturing. The USSR and China proceed from the premise that there can be no return to the type of relations that existed during the 1950's. Objective interest and mutual advantage form the basis of today's relations.

What do these consist of for the Soviet Union?

We have obtained "tranquillity of our borders," which are 7,500 km long. The establishment of good relations with a nuclear power that has the largest population and is a permanent member of the UN Security Council is important in itself. Collaboration with China may promote solutions in regional conflicts and the search for ways of creating a nonconfrontational and just world order. The normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations has a beneficial effect on improving the climate in the Asian-Pacific region.

China welcomes the aims of perestroika in the Soviet Union. What lies behind this support is not only the natural wish to have a mighty partner and desire to ensure the predictability of the balance of forces in the world, but also sincere sympathy, since in the course of its reforms the PRC is resolving tasks similar to those in the USSR.

For all its specific nature, the Chinese experience of socioeconomic reforms, many of which have proved their effectiveness, is valuable to the USSR.

Finally, a word about results of Soviet-Chinese relations which are actually "tangible," so to speak. First of all, regarding trade and economic cooperation. In this country

this is clearly felt most of all in the Far East and Central Asia, where the proximity of the border with China is a telling factor. On the whole food and consumer goods account for two-thirds of Soviet imports from China.

The fruits of cultural cooperation are tangible. A great deal of Chinese scientific, political, and artistic literature has been published in the USSR. The fall tour of the Shanghai opera company was memorable. Chinese movies are no novelty at movie theaters or on television. Ties with the PRC have made it possible to partly satisfy the craving for Chinese medicine.

China has ceased to be a "closed" country for Soviet people. The flood of delegations and business and tourist trips is increasing, and this is being accompanied by a simplification of visa and other formalities.

The PRC has also stressed on many occasions that it values good-neighborliness with the Soviet Union. PRC domestic and foreign policy in 1990 was mainly geared to stabilizing the situation in society. In line with the authoritative Chinese statements made in particular at the CPC Central Committee plenum in December 1990, progress has been made in a number of directions. These include the formation of a "new generation" of leaders. In Chinese terminology, the core of the new generation is Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Council and the CPC Central Committee Military Council. In addition there is the fulfillment of the anti-inflation program, the early achievement of the quantitative targets of the Seventh Five-Year Plan, and the record grain harvest. Among weighty foreign policy achievements, the PRC singles out the dynamism of relations with the USSR.

Mutual interest and advantage, complementarity of the economies, and the absence of cardinal differences on the key questions testify to the substantial potential of Soviet-Chinese relations. Although I think it is wrong to rely on the automatic further development of cooperation without appropriate efforts from the sides.

As from 1 January 1991 we switched to payments in freely convertible currency in trade with China. The role of direct links is growing. Scope is appearing for joint investment activity, production sharing, multilateral projects with Chinese participation, and other unorthodox forms.

There is one point in the political context that is causing concern. The publication of material about Taiwan has become more frequent in the Soviet press. Some of the practical proposals put forward in this material look quite strange. In particular, the idea of casting aside "political fears" of "the possible harsh reaction of 'mainland China'" and of "not blocking" the channel of direct economic ties between the USSR and Taiwan, "which promises tangible advantage." The well known Soviet line on this question, which is a sensitive one for the PRC, is not determined by "fear" but is based on the firm support for the PRC position enshrined in Soviet-Chinese documents. Nobody has blocked the road to

purely commercial deals with Taiwan, indeed, with the expansion of the autonomy of Soviet economic units this would be impossible. Soviet enterprises and rayons are establishing economic contacts with other PRC provinces. The essence of the question is to ensure that the deals in question exclude elements of official relations—government guarantees, the mediation of officials, etc.

This year the minimum task in Soviet-Chinese relations will obviously be to consolidate the positions that have been reached in recent months. The substantial groundwork inspires hope that they will be developed consistently and that high-level visits and meetings and frank, constructive dialogue will take place regularly. In some spheres we can expect growth. The current level of relations and the special features of the situation in our countries will certainly make it natural to intensify ties, including an increase in the number of people participating in them, an improvement of structures, and a deepening of trust and cooperation.

Airline Agreement Signed With China 26 Mar

LD2603111791 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0510 GMT 26 Mar 91

[By TASS correspondent Konstantin Toporkov]

[Text] Beijing, 26 Mar (TASS)—An intergovernmental agreement on airlinks between the USSR and the PRC was signed today in the Chinese capital. B.E. Panukov, minister of civil aviation of the USSR and Jiang Zhuping, head of the Central Administration of Civil Aviation of China [CAAC] put their signatures to this document on behalf of the two countries' governments. It was pointed out at the signing ceremony that the uniqueness of this event consists in the fact that the new agreement will replace the old protocol of 1954 which regulated civil and cargo flights between the two countries for more than 35 years.

As Boris Panyukov said in his interview to TASS, the intergovernmental agreement signed today touches on the interests of both Soviet and Chinese peoples. The main purpose of the document is to satisfy yet more fully the demands of the Soviet Union and China in air transportation. Thus, according to the new document, the USSR minister of civil aviation further pointed out, the operational intensity of flights implemented by the two countries' air companies is being increased, and the quality of air links between the Soviet Union and the PRC is being raised through a switch to new types of airliner. In addition, the sides have mutually agreed on arrangements for granting the use of national air space for the passage of Chinese airliners flying to Europe and Soviet airliners flying to Asia, for instance, to Seoul and Hong Kong. In spite of the fact that the agreement is intergovernmental, B.E. Panyukov further emphasized, it does not preclude the possibility for local airlines to broaden the range of their flights. On the contrary, given that the process of reorganization of our two countries' air fleet systems is proceeding along similar lines, regional civil aviation directorates of the USSR in the Far East and Central Asia

may independently establish contacts with air companies of different provinces of the PRC.

Jiang Zhuping, head of CAAC, also expressed his appreciation of the significance of the agreement signed in Beijing. "This document, he said, will promote the development of cooperation between Chinese and Soviet aviation specialists. We hope, Jiang Zhuping stressed, "that the good contacts with our Soviet colleagues that we have always enjoyed, will be further strengthened and broadened."

Friendship Association Greets Chinese New Year

OW1602103091 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 1300 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Dear listeners, Comrade Titarenko, first deputy chairman of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and director of the Far East Institute in the Soviet Academy of Sciences, conveyed his Chinese Spring Festival greetings to all of you today. Here is his message:

[Begin Titarenko recording in Russian, fading into Mandarin translation] Dear Chinese friends, it is my pleasure to wish you a happy Chinese New Year. It is my hope that this year will be a year of creation and construction and a year of peace, prosperity, and happiness for every family. [end recording]

Comrade Titarenko continued: Last year was one in which our two great nations strengthened and improved cooperation. It was a year in which we groped along and improved the socialist road, tackling problems encountered during reform. Cooperation between the USSR and the PRC continues to develop and deepen in the wake of the Sino-Soviet summit meeting in May 1989. Last year, Comrade Li Peng, premier of the PRC's State Council, concluded a successful visit to Moscow. Cooperation in all fields between our two countries has developed effectively. Marked progress has been made, especially in Sino-Soviet border areas. The volume of border trade accounts for more than one-third of the trade between our countries. Several thousand young Chinese workers are employed in joint-venture enterprises along our borders. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to them for their contributions to the development of our cooperation. I would also like to express my wish that they will achieve new results in this cause.

Comrade Titarenko said: As a Sinologist and a leading member of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, I have continuously met with Chinese representatives, scholars, and members of Chinese delegations. Our meetings and conversations have indicated that the friendship between Chinese and Soviet peoples has improved and that our mutual understanding has deepened. Our cooperation conforms to the basic interests of our peoples.

Comrade Titarenko said: Please allow me to express my wish that our friendship and cooperation will develop and deepen in the future. I would like to reiterate that the

Soviet people are faithful and good friends of the Chinese people because we share a common goal of progress.

[Begin Titarenko recording in Russian, fading into Mandarin translation] Finally, I would like once again to convey my greetings to the Chinese people. I hope for a bumper harvest, for achievement of economic and political reforms, and for peace and happiness in the new year. [end recording]

Anticorruption Campaign Seen Starting in China

PM1103131191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
9 Mar 91 Union Edition p 5

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent Yu. Savenkov: "How China Fights Corruption. Bosses' Turn"]

[Text] Beijing—The session of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] Standing Committee that has just finished its work in Beijing approved the government's decision to remove two ministers from their posts.

Qian Yongchang, minister of communications, and Lin Hanxiong, minister of construction, were deprived of their posts for "abusing power for personal ends" and for "violating state discipline" respectively. There are no reports as to the details of what the two top officials did. But observers are unanimous in their belief that this removal represents a step forward in Chinese society's fight against corruption and for an "incorruptible, pure government." This is a rare occurrence.

A minister was removed from his post summer 1987 for the first time in the PRC's history for disregarding his official duty: After analyzing the circumstances behind a major forest fire in the north of Heilongjiang Province, the government accused the then minister of forestry, Yang Zhong, of a breach of duty and unskillful leadership and deprived him of his ministerial post.

The present campaign to eradicate bribery, embezzlement, dissipation, extortion, and bureaucratism is not the first in PRC history. There have been previous campaigns. But the simultaneous dismissal of two ministers attests to the Chinese leadership's determination to demonstrate its uncompromising attitude. After all, the following is often heard in society: Low-ranking offenders most frequently fall within the net of justice (they are called "mosquitoes"), yet those higher in rank ("tigers") escape punishment.

At the beginning of the year Xu Jun, former chief of the Ministry of Railways Shipments Directorate, was sentenced to death for corruption, with the sentence deferred for two years. He is the highest official to be sentenced to the supreme penalty for "economic crime" since China embarked on the path of reform in the late-1970's. It is over the last decade that the fight against these crimes has been exacerbated: Many officials began to obtain an illegal income using loopholes in the old bureaucratic system that had not yet been destroyed. The trial of Xu Jun, in particular, confirmed that he appropriated money from

public funds totalling 63 times more than his annual income and also took large bribes.

This case provoked a conflicting reaction. Some people claimed that the verdict was too light. Xu should have been executed immediately like the renowned embezzlers in the early-1950's, party leaders from Hebei Province. They were then sentenced to death for appropriating more than 1.5 million yuan—a sentence that "Chairman Mao himself" approved.

The increasing rank of those accused of corruption is a typical sign of the present campaign. There are also others: More efficient organization of the system of control over officials. In the last three quarters of last year alone control organs imposed administrative penalties on 30,000 officials. These organs focus their attention on problems arousing particular concern in society. One of these being the widespread practice of building private homes with public funds.

Last fall a law came into force in China which, for the first time in the country's history, guarantees a citizen legal protection against possible violation of his rights by administrative departments or government officials. There was previously no law whereby people could be punished for abusing power. Now a citizen can bring a court action.

Democratization Process Examined, Defended

OW2102184891 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 1000 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Report on comments by (Smurk), NOVOYE VREMYA political observer; from the "Current Events and Commentaries" program]

[Text] (Smurk) holds that we should in no way agree with remarks by those who allege that China is violating human rights without making an earnest analysis of its social, political, and economic condition. Comments on affairs in different countries should proceed from different stands. If the starting point for evaluation is not appropriate, then from the viewpoint of civilized democracy, China should be regarded as a pyramid which retains Oriental-style dictatorship. The fact is: how can human rights be spoken of in a country in which even the people's basic right to reproduction is restricted? In implementing the one child policy, the Chinese leadership has adopted a series of unwelcome measures against families with more than one child.

The NOVOYE VREMYA observer continues: If we view the question by proceeding from China's actual situation rather than from the abstract concept of rights, we cannot but arrive at this conclusion: The above-mentioned Chinese national policy is a step which needed to be taken. If high population growth rates had not been put under control since 1975, then the people's living standards would have returned to levels prior to those of the reform, and everything would have to be

rationed. Under the present circumstances, such a change in living standards might cause an immense social shock.

The question of the quality of life is inextricably linked to the overall issue of democratization. Now, Chinese statesmen are discussing the question of whether the Chinese people have attained a level from which they might exercise democracy. Building a democratic society requires a certain level of politics, morality, and civilization. Democracy means not only that the people enjoy wide freedom of choice but also that everyone should be responsible to society. In China's propaganda, stress is often laid on the fact that a relatively long time should be spent on educating the people so that they will develop a correct understanding of freedom, develop political civilization, and reach truly democratic ideological levels. China holds that democratization should never be oversimplified into mere liberalization of the political system. Meanwhile, no matter which system is taken as a starting point for analysis, we must note that China's political reform, though slow, does continue. The 1980's saw the separation of party and state functions, democratization of the election system, and the establishment of a consultative system based on dialogue with different social strata.

As to the allegation that China is carrying out political reform by using old slogans and methods which prevailed during the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, (Smurk) says: That is another matter. Contradictions between economic pragmatism and ideological conservatism is being gradually sharpened, even though this conservatism has its healthy aspect—that is, it tries to guard against the recurrence of past errors.

Northeast Asia

Gorbachev Greets Japanese Liberal Democrats' Group
PM1803115591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Mar 91 First Edition p 1

[Message from USSR President Gorbachev "To the Liberal Democratic Party Parliamentary Deputies' Association 'For Friendship Between Japan and the USSR'"]

[Text] Esteemed gentlemen!

I greet your initiative, your association, and all those assembled for its constituent meeting. Your intentions coincide with our own desire to lend impetus to Soviet-Japanese relations and to lead them onto a broad road toward a qualitatively new period, in the spirit of the imminent era. The objective role of the USSR and Japan in the Asian and Pacific region, in international development, and in world politics oblige us to do this.

The first visit in history by a head of our state to Japan is close. I hope that this will be followed by substantial changes in Soviet-Japanese relations, that our good-neighborliness will be more vigorously filled with real content, and that there will be an increase in the original

contribution of two such influential members of the world community to the process of world collaboration.

I am paying the most serious attention toward preparation for the visit to your country and I intend in the time remaining to meet with several representatives of Japan.

I wish your association successful work. Until our meeting on Japanese soil!

[Signed] USSR President M. Gorbachev.

CPSU's Falin Receives Japanese SDP Delegation
PM1503101391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
13 Mar 91 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under general headline: "Official Announcements"]

[Text] V.M. Falin, CPSU Central Committee secretary, has met with a group of legislative deputies from Japan's Social Democratic Party, headed by T. Okada. A friendly conversation was devoted to the situation in the Persian Gulf and the prospects for the development of Soviet-Japanese relations, along with cooperation between the CPSU and the Social Democratic Party.

Symposium on Soviet-Japanese Relations
LD0404152291 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT
4 Apr 91

[by TASS correspondent Vladimir Solyntsev]

[Text] Tokyo April 4 TASS—A symposium on Japanese-Soviet relations has been called here on the initiative of the Japanese International Affairs Society. It aroused the interest of both Japanese and foreign businessmen. The symposium discussed prospects and contours of foreseeable international relations, the place and role in them of the positive experience accumulated by the USSR and Japan.

"The policy of new thinking, which has done away with the 'cold war', can no longer be a 'monopoly' of the Soviet Union. It must provide the foundation for a new international order, both regional and global," president of the Japanese International Affairs Society Kinhide Mushakoji believes. He drew attention to the fact that the symposium was called on the eve of President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan. Mushakoji noted that "it is very important for Japan and the Soviet Union to boldly embark upon the road of promoting peace in the Asian-Pacific region, especially in the present-day changeable world situation and at a time when the cold war is over."

The Soviet president's aide, academician Georgiy Shakhnazarov, who took part in the symposium, said that the time had come to mend relations with Japan after major breakthroughs have been made in Soviet relations with key world powers, primarily, the United States and then China. This is the purpose of the visit to Japan by

our head of state, the first-ever in the history both of the USSR and Russia, as well as the purpose of his forthcoming meeting with the Japanese prime minister, emperor and other statesmen.

Former Chinese ambassador to the USSR, vice chairman of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Society Yang Shouzheng is sure that Japan should not put off the development of cooperation with the USSR until complicated bilateral relations were all settled. "Improvement of these relations and the creation of a friendly atmosphere will eventually result in the settlement of outstanding problems," he said.

Soviet-DPRK Cultural Protocol Signed

*SK0204120591 Moscow International Service
in Korean 1330 GMT 1 Apr 91*

[From "Various Aspects of Cooperation" program]

[Text] The DPRK Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries signed a protocol on cooperation with the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

In addition, a 1991-1992 work protocol was signed between the Soviet-DPRK Friendship Society and the DPRK-Soviet Friendship Society.

The protocol on cooperation was signed by (Kazahumet Balahmetov), director of the Kazakhstan branch of the Soviet-DPRK Friendship Society and vice chairman of the Central Council of the Soviet-DPRK Friendship Society, and by Yi Pong-hui, vice chairman of the DPRK Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

The ceremony to sign the protocol was also attended by O Mun-han, vice chairman of the DPRK Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries. In an interview with Moscow radio he said the following:

[Begin O recording] I am very glad to have successfully signed the protocol between the friendship societies of the DPRK and the Soviet Union.

Functionaries of the DPRK-Soviet Friendship Society and the DPRK people have invariably developed friendship, solidarity, and cooperative relations with the Soviet people. Thus, proceeding from the desire to favorably develop friendship between the people of the two countries and between the two friendship societies, a good protocol on cooperation was signed, I think. I believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between the friendship societies and between the people of the two countries will develop in the face of any difficulties.

Thanks to the unanimous efforts of the people of the two countries and to the efforts of the two friendship societies, good results will be borne. In addition, the traditional friendly relations will be strengthened and developed, I think.

Even though a protocol on cooperation has been signed every year between the friendship societies of the two countries, this 1991-1992 cooperative project in particular contains many profound contents, I think.

In particular, I am very glad that, according to the project, the Soviet-DPRK Friendship Society will send a congratulatory team on the occasion of the birthday of Comrade Kim Il-song, the respected and beloved leader of our people.

In addition, the issue of friendly exchanges of cultural functionaries is a content newly included in the protocol. We are very glad that the functions for the day of the DPRK will be held in [word indistinct] and in Primorskiy Kray in the Soviet Union, and that the functions for the day of the Soviet Union will be held in North Hamgyong Province in our country.

I think that the exchanges of delegations and functions will contribute to developing friendship and cooperation between the two friendship societies and between the people of the two countries. [end recording]

This was the interview with O Mun-han, who attended the ceremony for signing the Soviet-DPRK protocol held in Pyongyang some time ago.

Scholars Review Korean-Soviet Friendship Society

*SK0803132391 Moscow International Service
in Korean 1330 GMT 4 Mar 91*

[Comments by (Yuriy Zirikov), deputy director of the Far Eastern Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and Mun Yong-taek, director of the Korean Social, Economic, and Political Research Institute on newly established Korean-Soviet Friendship Society; place and date not given—from the "Various Aspects of Cooperation" program—recorded]

[Text] We have already reported that an accord on establishing the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society was signed in the capital of the Soviet Union between the Far Eastern Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Social, Economic, and Political Research Institute of the ROK.

The basic goal of the organization's activities in its stipulations is to enhance friendship and mutual relations between the Korean and the Soviet citizens in the economic, social, political, and other fields.

The society will hold an annual scientific symposium and contribute to exchanging delegations in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields and to cooperation between the peoples and organizations of the two countries.

In an interview by a station reporter, (Yuriy Zirikov), deputy director of the Far Eastern Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences who signed the accord on the formation of the society, said this:

[Zarikov] Scholars of the Far Eastern Studies Institute and other Soviet scholars displayed their initiative in forming a friendship society with the ROK. In the future, a similar society will be organized within the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and the friendship society with Korea will be entitled to an equal membership.

At the same time, the Far Eastern Studies Institute is a member of the USSR-DPRK Friendship Society. It is known that this society carries out the work of enhancing friendly relations with the DPRK. Scholars of the institute see the possibilities of its contributing to North-South dialogue and to guaranteeing peace and security in the whole of the northeast Asia.

Therefore, it is very logical to join the USSR-DPRK and USSR-ROK friendship societies at the same time.

[Announcer] On behalf of the ROK side, Mun Yong-tack, director of the Korean Social, Economic, and Political Research Institute and professor of Hanyang University, also signed the accord. He said:

[Mun] Every business has two kinds of values. One is the value of means and the other is the value of purpose.

The latter is to promote friendship between Korea and the Soviet Union and seek common prosperity. The former is found in the fact that a bridge for dialogue and friendship has been laid through the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union whose dialogue had been deadlocked under the Yalta system of the cold war.

It is true that many politicians and scholars of the two countries have made great efforts to establish diplomatic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union, promoting mutual friendship—the content and goal of the establishment of diplomatic relations—is what we should do.

Red Cross Proposes Korea Talks on Families

SK0404082291 Moscow International Service
in Korean 1100 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Sergey Petrov commentary from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The ROK Red Cross proposed to the DPRK Red Cross Society that the 11th round of talks be held in Pyongyang to discuss the issue of separated families.

Station commentator (Sergey Petrov) writes as follows:

August, 1991 will mark the 20th anniversary since the beginning of talks related to the issue of separated families.

The issue of separated families originated from the division of Korea in 1945. This is a tragedy. The division became more serious as a result of the 1950-1953 war.

Since 1971, 10 rounds of talks have been held between the ROK and the DPRK Red Cross Societies. However, no concrete results have yet been borne.

Even so, meetings were restricted to a few instances in Japan between organized groups consisting of only a few members. According to an official source, separated family members number 10 million people. This means that brothers, sisters, parents, and their sons and daughters have lived far apart all their lives.

Regrettably, far from meeting their separated family members, they have been deprived of the opportunity of corresponding with them.

In connection with the separated family issue, foreign broadcast stations have regularly carried the letters of separated family members, and helped them meet their separated family members. Our Moscow radio has promoted such work.

The tragedy of the Korean people has become more serious, because the first generation is dying. Should they die without meeting their separated families during their life?

With other talks between the two countries suspended, the North-South Red Cross talks have also been suspended. Probably, the two countries on the Korean Peninsula understand that such a fact is not normal.

The issue of separated families should not be linked to any political or military issues, I think. For this reason, the proposal of the ROK Red Cross is drawing our attention.

If the DPRK responds positively to this proposal, this will normalize the relations between the two countries on the Korean Peninsula. In addition, this will create a favorable atmosphere in the general situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Loan Agreement Signed With ROK

LD3003130291 Moscow TASS in English 1251 GMT
30 Mar 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Agarkov]

[Text] Tokyo March 30 TASS—Representatives of the USSR and South Korea signed in Seoul today a bilateral agreement to extend 500-million-dollar credits to the Soviet Union. The agreement was concluded by Korean Development Bank, nine other South Korean Banks and Vneshekonombank of the USSR.

Reporting about this, the YONHAP news agency points out that the document was signed in line with accords to develop trade and economic cooperation, which were reached by the two countries last year.

Another big agreement to grant a South Korean bank loan for the same sum to the Soviet Union is expected to be signed in the latter half of this year.

Deputy Foreign Minister Receives Ambassador

*SK2603111391 Moscow International Service
in Korean 1330 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[From the "Various Aspects of Cooperation" program]

[Text] On 21 March, Igor Rogachev, Soviet deputy foreign minister, received Kong No-myong, ROK ambassador to the Soviet Union.

At the meeting, they discussed issues concerning the Soviet-ROK relations and other urgent international issues.

ROK-Soviet Airline Treaty Concluded

*SK2603111491 Moscow International Service
in Korean 1330 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[From the "Various Aspects of Cooperation" program]

[Text] Talks were held between the Soviet and the ROK airline companies in Seoul. Aeroflot of the Soviet Union and the ROK's Korean Airlines concluded a long-term treaty.

Thus, it is expected that the number of flights for passenger planes by Korean Airlines by way of Soviet airspace will be increased to 20 times a week, beginning in April.

ROK President Receives TASS Director-General

*LD1403135291 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT
13 Mar 91*

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchko]

[Text] Seoul March 14 TASS—President No Tae-u today called for further stimulating the dialogue and broadening mutually beneficial cooperation between the republic of Korea and the Soviet Union.

"The Moscow declaration signed in December last year furnished a good basis for the development of our relations in the economy, science, technology, culture, and information. The process of adding substance to them is now under way, he said today during a meeting with TASS Director-General Lev Spiridonov.

The head of the Soviet news agency is currently in Seoul at the invitation of the South Korean news agency YONHAP.

"I am sure that our cooperation, which meets the interests of the peoples of the two countries, will yield fruitful results," No Tae-u emphasised.

He pointed out a great importance of establishing strong contacts between Soviet and South Korean news media, between TASS and YONHAP in particular.

Mining Agreement Signed With South Korea

*LD2003095791 Moscow TASS in English 0939 GMT
20 Mar 91*

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Vitrishchak]

[Text] Khabarovsk March 20 TASS—Officials of the Soviet Far Eastern mining industry and the South Korean Hyundai firm signed an agreement on partnership in developing natural resources deposits.

They will cooperate in mining coal at the Urgalskoye coalfield, iron ore in the little khingan mountains and hydrocarbon resources in Sakhalin and Yakutiya.

"The South Korean firm does not conceal its interest in obtaining raw materials. The project, however, does not provide for uncontrolled exports of our mineral resources," Yuriy Bakulin, director of the Far Eastern Scientific and Research Institute of Mineral Resources, told TASS.

"By setting up joint ventures, the Soviet side will gain access to advanced technologies, which will help it increase the effectiveness of mining," he said.

"We are looking forward to cooperating with our South Korean partners on a long-term basis. They are ready to finance our projects, which will justify the expenses in the near future," Bakulin said.

To boost cooperation with foreign partners, some mining enterprises intend to set up a consortium.

Koreas, Soviets Blamed for 1950-53 Korean War

*PM1203121191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
9 Mar 91 Union Edition p 6*

[Letter from historian Nikolay Orlov-Rimin, participant in the Great Patriotic War, under the rubric: "From International Departments' Mailbag": "Korean War: So Who Did Start It, Then?"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA 27 October 1990 (No. 298) printed an article by V. Lukashin entitled "What General Choe Kwang Ignored..." Lukashin reproached the North Korean general for warmly thanking the Chinese people for their "fraternal aid" and saying nothing about the Soviet people's "fraternal aid" at a ceremonial meeting in Pyongyang devoted to the 40th anniversary of Maoist China's interference [vmeshatelstvo] in the North-South war (in the shape of "Chinese volunteers")....

Army General Choe Kwang, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo and chief of the Korean People's Army General Staff, was himself involved in the war in 1950-1953 and knows whom to thank for the "fraternal aid" and whom not to thank. The crux of the matter is that the Soviet Union prepared and unleashed the 1950-1953 North-South war. Stalin, "leader of all times and peoples," and his "loyal pupil" Kim Il-song were personally to blame.

It is well known that Soviet propaganda heaped all the blame for the unleashing of the 1950-1953 Korean War on the "U.S. aggressors" and their "accomplice"—the then South Korean president, Syngman Rhee. How did it all actually happen, according to incontrovertible facts known worldwide? During that time I was serving in a corps stationed on Kamchatka. In the course of my job I often had contact with and was close to the corps commander, Lieutenant General Gnechko, and his line deputy, Major General I.N. Konev. For that reason the preparation for the Korean War and the war itself may be said to have taken place before my eyes....

In 1948-1949 wide-ranging training of a one-million-strong army was mounted in North Korea with the help of Soviet instructors and advisers. Stalin was generous in his allocation of funds and equipment. At the time Maoist China was getting by on our "selfless aid" and took virtually no part in the expenditure on this bloody adventure. Not until the last minute did the South Korean Government and the command of the U.S. occupation forces suspect the attack that was under preparation. Suffice it to say that in 1949 South Korea had 50,000 people under arms and 100,000 in 1950. If you consider that there were more than 30 million people living in South Korea at the time, anyone acquainted with military matters will realize that Syngman Rhee could and should have—when preparing for war—put 3-3.5 million soldiers under arms. During ordinary mobilization any government can take into the armed forces one in nine of its total number of citizens, and this figure rises to one in eight during total mobilization.

As for the U.S. occupation forces, on the day the war began (25 June 1950) they numbered two lightly armed brigades of Marines. The usual strength of a brigade in this branch of the U.S. forces is 21,000 men. So, on the first day of the war, South Korea had its army of 100,000 men and 42,000 U.S. Marines. Against Kim Il-song's army, armed to the teeth, led by Soviet officers and generals, and numbering 1.3 million men.

Exploiting their tremendous numerical superiority in terms of troops and arms, the North Koreans captured virtually all South Korea's territory within literally a few days. But in this matter of days the Americans had time to dispatch to the south of the peninsula sizable contingents from their occupying forces in Japan. Kim Il-song's badly trained soldiers had to retreat. They retreated right up to the border with China. That was when the turn came for the "Chinese volunteers"—actually, regular People's Liberation Army units—to interfere in the bloody game.

Peace talks then began between the combatant sides. Meanwhile the United Nations censured the true aggressors—the DPRK, the PRC, and the USSR. I stress: It censured them on the basis of a host of incontrovertible documents and testimonies. The talks ended with a North-South armistice (not peace!) in June 1953. In particular, the border between the two Koreas along the 38th parallel was restored. In the space of three years all

cities and villages in this unfortunate country were transformed into dust and ashes.

Judge for yourselves: Should the North Koreans thank their "Soviet friends" for this monstrous swindle. Admittedly, North Korea rose again from the ashes with our, Soviet money. But what money can make up for the death of millions of innocent people and also for the criminal split of the small, talented, industrious Korean people—a split which continues to this day?! The main thing is this: Why does Soviet propaganda still hide the truth about this war from our people?!

Nikolay Orlov-Rimin, historian and participant in the Great Patriotic War

Shchelkovskiy Rayon, Losino-Petrovskiy City, Moscow Oblast

Attacks on Mongolian Joint Ventures Rebutted

PM1103164991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
4 Mar 91 Union Edition p 5

[A. Nabatchikov report: "Bone of Contention Is 'Treasure Mountain,' Or Who Is Bothered By Mongol-Soviet Economic Cooperation"]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar—Only yesterday "Erdenet," the Soviet-Mongolian mining and enriching combine, was described in the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] as one of the most impressive achievements of socialist integration and a symbol of international fraternity. As the socioeconomic situation in the republic has deteriorated, however, this and other products of our joint entrepreneurial activity have come under such powerful pressure from the opposition's critical attacks that even their continued existence now looks in many ways problematic.

This usually happens under the entirely plausible slogans of "cleansing Soviet-Mongolian friendship of the accretions of the past" and observing the "principles of equal rights and justice" in bilateral relations. It is this in particular which the "civil movement" at the "Erdenet" mining and enriching combine is demanding. In fact, however, all its efforts are aimed at debarring the Soviet partner from shared participation in the combine's activity, even though, incidentally, the Soviet partner has equal property rights with the Mongolian partner in this joint venture. Essentially, it is a question of the complete transfer of the mining and enriching combine to the Mongolian side—in the very near future, moreover, and virtually for nothing. The intergovernmental agreement of 22 November 1973 on the creation of the Erdenet joint venture would thus be rendered null and void. The "civil movement" has sent an appeal to the State Small Hural and the republic government demanding that the mining and enriching combine's current capacities be mothballed, in other words, that construction of the additional sixth phase, which is being carried out through the efforts and with the credit resources of the Soviet partner—without which resources the very birth of "Erdenet" would have been problematic—be wound up.

Of course, certain provisions of the aforementioned agreement, in particular those restricting the freedom of choice of business partner and of markets for the sale of the combine's output, do indeed require updating. The Soviet side is prepared for this in principle. A number of the demands put forward by its Mongolian colleagues—for example, that all previous expenditure on the exploitation of mineral resources, water, and land are be retrospectively included in this agreement—require thorough study and coordination. Haste on this issue and ultimatums can hardly facilitate the successful solution of the problem on the basis of equal rights and observance of mutual interests.

It should also be said that the combine cannot be accused of arbitrary conduct in exploiting the local natural resources. So the roots of the mining and enriching combine's production problems should not be sought beyond the national borders. This conviction is shared even by Sh. Otgonbileg [name as transliterated], the current general director of "Erdenet."

Above all, he believes, they lie in the outmoded conservative principles and structures of management and in the retention of the flawed system of the administrative redistribution of resources. It was these and other defects in the centralized planned economy that led to a paradoxical situation whereby, though it consistently overfulfills all production plans, the combine continues to remain in debt to the state.

The way out of this situation, in Otgonbileg's opinion, lies in creating on the basis of the combine and its parent association, "Mongolsovtsvetmet," a single concern capable of bearing full responsibility for its work and also of collaborating with the state on the basis of tax policy and strict observance of its laws.

But the activists of the "civil movement" at "Erdenet" have a completely different idea of the mining and enriching combine's paramount needs. They try to find ulterior motives or, to put it more simply, mercenary calculations on the part of the Soviet side in everything, even in the basic principles of the organization of the combine's activity. Incidentally, the very thesis that virtually all the Soviet side's business activity in Mongolia is invariably aimed at getting unilateral advantages and revenue at the expense of the republic's national economy and the new political forces' approaches to the fundamental problems of our cooperation often becomes the main criterion for evaluations. [sentence as published]

If you believe the newspaper [not identified], Soviet specialists at the mining and enriching combine are virtually all arrant crooks, rogues, and bribetakers to a man. "The Russians in Erdenet are now quite overstepping the bounds of decency. We have been ingratiating ourselves with them for 70 years, so it is time to put an end to this," the newspaper writes, inflaming the sense of wounded pride of its compatriots, some of whom, after this "shock therapy," are trying to restore national pride and assert their own dignity by means of their fists and other violent methods.

As the new independent press sees it, the combine is presented in the guise of a grievous failed experiment that should serve as "an instructive lesson and direct reproach to Mongolians" for a long time to come.

The implied conclusion, as is not difficult to guess, is this: Would it not be better on the whole to close both this and other Soviet-Mongolian joint ventures, naturally so as to mobilize them afterwards to serve exclusively the country's own needs?

Is not this the origin of the stubborn desire to avoid any mention of the fact that the mining and enriching combine has fully recouped the funds invested in its creation and, in terms of production volume, is in the top ten in the world among very large enterprises of a similar profile? I think that its founders still have very reason to be proud of the fact that "Erdenet" accounts for one-fifth of all the country's industrial output and more than one-third of its exports. It was here that the foundations of the republic's nonferrous metallurgy were laid. The fact that, since reaching its full design capacity in 1983, the combine has brought annual revenue of 150 million tugriks to the state treasury speaks volumes.

But its significance is connected in the people's memory also with the creation on the bare steppe of over 20 production and cultural and everyday facilities, which have given birth to a modern city, the country's second biggest, with a high level of development of social infrastructure.

In the language of objective reality the most painful question—that of prices—also looks by no means as clear-cut as is now made out here at all kinds of levels. The interests of glasnost probably also demand that mention be openly made of the fact that from 1980 through 1989, owing to the difference between the contract prices and world prices for copper concentrate, taking into account the 10 percent markup, the Soviet Union overpaid the MPR 43.38 million rubles, i.e. far more than the value of the concentrate according to the generally recognized prices for this type of output at that time.

Finally, it should be borne in mind that all the output exported to the USSR from the combine is paid for by the Soviet side in consumer durables and food products and is not acquired by way of debt repayments, which, of course, would be greatly preferable for the Soviet side.

Meanwhile, the activists of the strike committee that has been set up on the basis of the "civil movement" stop at nothing to discredit and erase the advantages of this progressive and promising form of cooperation between our two countries. Only recently, for example, they announced their intention to block the work of the enterprise if their ultimatum demanding that the mining and enriching combine be entirely handed over to the Mongolian side is not fulfilled. Otherwise, they claim, "its future activity will not meet the people's interests."

I think, however, that matters are precisely the other way round. If the combine ends up out of business and

moreover is deprived of its former sources of support and services from the Soviet side, no one will benefit from this.

Gorbachev Congratulates Mongolian MPRP Chairman

PM1103121591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
8 Mar 91 Second Edition p 1

[Undated greetings message from M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee: "To Comrade Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon, Chairman of the MPRP Central Committee"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon!

Please accept my congratulations on your election as chairman of the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee.

I wish you success in implementing the course worked out by the 20th MPRP Congress, and express confidence that the comradely cooperation between our parties will continue to be an important component in Soviet-Mongolian relations.

M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee

Yazov Greets Mongolian Counterpart on Anniversary

PM2003145991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 19 Mar 91 First Edition p 1

[Greetings message from USSR Defense Minister Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Yazov to Mongolian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Shagaliyn Jadambaa on 70th anniversary of Mongolian People's Army]

[Text] To Mongolian Defense Minister Comrade Lieutenant General Shagaliyn Jadambaa

Please accept my sincere congratulations on a significant date in the history of the Mongolian People's Army—the 70th anniversary of its formation.

I voice the firm conviction that the good traditions of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Mongolian Armed Forces will continue to serve the interests of our states and peoples.

I wish all Mongolian soldiers success in their noble martial labor.

[Signed] USSR Defense Minister Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Yazov

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Legislators Meet With Australian Counterparts

LD0603141791 Moscow TASS in English 1248 GMT
6 Mar 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Kuznetsov]

[Text] Canberra March 6 TASS—Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke favours mutually advantageous cooperation between Australia and the Soviet Union. Meeting a delegation of the Soviet legislature's International Affairs Committee, headed by vice-chairman of the committee F. Tabeyev, he noted that the two countries could fruitfully develop their relations in the economic and other domains.

The delegation had meetings with several Australian ministers and members of the legislative foreign affairs, defence and trade committees. They noted during the talks that it was possible to expand bilateral relations in various areas and to cooperate in international organizations, particularly in the effort to safeguard the environment. A view was expressed that the Soviet Union should be drawn more actively into Asian-Pacific affairs.

Taking part in the negotiations was Soviet Ambassador to Australia V. Dolgov.

The delegation has left for Melbourne, where it will meet Australian businessmen.

Further on Visit

LD0603023791 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1501 GMT 5 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Kuznetsov]

[Text] Canberra, 5 Mar (TASS)—The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs headed by committee Deputy Chairman Fikryat A. Tabeyev, which arrived in Canberra, today met with a number of Australian politicians, toured the building of the country's commonwealth legislature, and attended its sittings. Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives greeted the Soviet representatives.

The members of the delegation were received by Bryant Burns, president of the Australia-USSR legislative group. The delegation visited Defense Minister Robert Ray and Gordon Bilney, minister for defense science and personnel, and had a meeting with Kerry Sibraa, president of the senate, and Leo Mcleay, speaker of the house of representatives. Soviet-Australian relations, issues relating to disarmament, and the situation in the Asian-Pacific region were discussed in the course of the conversations. It was noted that exchanges at the legislature level facilitate the successful development of bilateral relations.

The delegation also paid a visit to John Hewson, the leader of Australian political opposition.

Burma's Fight Against Narcotic Drugs Reported*BK1603100991 Moscow in Burmese to Burma
1200 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Yuriy Kostin commentary: "The Fight Against Narcotic Drugs Trafficking in Burma"]

[Text] According to recent reports, some drug traffickers have been executed in Southern China. The hearings during the case revealed that the gang's criminal activities are connected with the leaders of the Marco Mafia, a drug trafficking syndicate operating in the Golden Triangle where the borders of Myanmar [Burma], Thailand, and Laos meet. Recently, an AP correspondent reported that the current flourishing of the heroin trafficking trade has rarely been seen in the past. The correspondent also reported that the drug trafficker's army operating in that region is well equipped and their leader, Khun Sa, controls all the jungle roads leading from Myanmar to Thailand and India and has contacts with criminals operating in Southern China.

Khun Sa receives more than half of all the drug trafficking income of the Golden Triangle. His life is fairly smooth. Last year, Khun Sa announced that he will stop drug trafficking if the United States authorities offered to give him \$300 million. Meanwhile, Khun Sa's Shan United Army [SUA] has also been transformed into a very powerful force with an estimated strength of over 12,000 men.

A REUTER correspondent recently reported from the Pansai region that the drug king plans to cultivate about 300,000 acres of poppy this year and according to calculations by American experts the yield is estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000 tons. In other words, more than 300 tons of heroin will be disseminated worldwide. The American authorities had repeatedly alleged that the Myanmar Government's battle against narcotic drug trafficking is inadequate. But I would like to point out that the Myanmar Government is genuinely engaged in a serious struggle against these drug traffickers.

That is why the Myanmar Government has promulgated tough narcotic drug laws some years ago. The Yangon [Rangoon] Government also signed agreements with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in its fight against narcotic drugs. The Armed Forces is regularly carrying out Operation Moe Hein—an antinarcotic drug eradication program. The objectives of Operation Moe Hein is to destroy all primary sources of narcotic drug trafficking. In other words, its aim is to destroy poppy fields and heroin refineries. Last year, Myanmar destroyed more than 2,000 acres of poppy fields. Army columns destroyed more than nine tons of opium and heroin, and over 200 tons of hashish and other narcotic drugs. It is still unable to eradicate the illegal drug trade.

Myanmar has signed agreements with its neighbors, especially China, in an effort to increase the effectiveness of its antinarcotic drug activities. There is hope that these agreements will bear clear results in the future. But, at the moment, Myanmar is facing a lot of difficulties in this matter and a shortage of machinery and chemicals for drug

eradication. The United States halted its antinarcotic drug program assistance to Myanmar in the fall of 1988. Myanmar was able to buy the needed airplanes and chemicals with that assistance. Because of this, Myanmar authorities have repeatedly approached the United Nations for aid to carry out drug eradication programs on a wider scale. Considering the importance of this antinarcotic drug program, we hope that this cooperation with neighboring countries will improve in the near future.

Malaysia Resumes Technical Aid to Vietnam*BK0404091391 Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia
1530 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[By (Oleg Aleksey)]

[Text] Malaysia has decided to resume its technological aid to Vietnam, frozen in 1979. Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, secretary general to the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the assistance is aimed at developing Vietnam's rubber industry, one of Vietnam's major commodity exports.

It is a pity that the rubber industry in Vietnam has suffered a steady decline in the past few years. One reason for this is the shortage of chemical and agrotechnical materials required to maintain and boost the production of rubber plantations.

Vietnam has no advanced technology to process latex, the primary raw material for producing rubber. As such, Malaysia's assistance to Vietnam will be of utmost importance to Vietnam, especially in view of Malaysia's vast experience and modern equipment. As far as quality is concerned, Malaysia's rubber is considered the best in the world.

Malaysia's assistance will thus pave the way for Vietnam to modernize one of its main economic sectors. Kuala Lumpur's decision to resume its aid may be viewed from a wider context, namely from the political angle. It must be pointed out that Kuala Lumpur-Hanoi relations were resumed under rather unusual circumstances. Malaysia, together with other ASEAN countries, criticized the Vietnamese forces' invasion of Cambodia in January 1979.

Malaysia should also be praised for the fact that when many countries, including those in Southeast Asia, turned their backs on Vietnam, it continued to hold dialogues with Hanoi. An example was when Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach visited Malaysia in 1982. As reported in official circles, the talks between the SRV and Malaysian leaders were held in a constructive manner. Since then, many changes have taken place. But now when we look back we can say with good reason that the uninterrupted contacts between the two countries in the 1980's have played a key role in pursuing a solution to the Cambodian problem. This is especially true after Vietnam completed its troop withdrawal from Cambodia in September 1989.

Since that time the world community, including ASEAN countries, has begun to understand Vietnam's constructive approach toward efforts to seek a solution to the Cambodian problem as well as other problems in South-east Asia in general. The Kuala Lumpur-Hanoi ties of the past were indeed useful. As such, Malaysia's decision to assist Vietnam in producing rubber is a direct manifestation of its realistic and reasonable policy in the past few years. In their recent talks in Kuala Lumpur, the two sides also agreed to cooperate in rice planting.

Greetings Messages Exchanged with Thailand

LD1203211291 Moscow TASS in English 2035 GMT
12 Mar 91

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—The foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and Thailand have exchanged congratulatory messages on the occasion of today's 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"Over the past half a century, our two countries' relations, which from the very outset have been based on mutual respect and striving for peace and well-being of the peoples of the two countries, have traversed a long path marked by memorable events," points out a message sent by Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

"The Soviet side is confident that constructive cooperation between the Soviet Union and Thailand will undergo further comprehensive development in the coming years," the message says.

Thai Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin, upon having pointed out great importance that his country attaches to friendship with the Soviet Union, expressed a wholehearted [as received] for relations between the two countries to grow still stronger in the coming years.

Power Engineering Accord Signed With Vietnam

LD3003180791 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0652 GMT 30 Mar 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Shubin]

[Text] Hanoi, 30 Mar (TASS)—An agreement for 1991 between Vietnam and the USSR in the spheres of power engineering and electrification was signed here yesterday. It resulted from the 18th sitting of the working group of a bilateral commission on cooperation, that took place in the Vietnamese capital on 23-29 March.

The results of cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of power engineering were examined in the course of negotiations, and measures for stepping it up were outlined. The Soviet side will continue to render assistance to Vietnam in the construction of the Hoabin and Chian electric power stations, the electrification of the country, and the reconstruction of electric systems in the towns of Hanoi, Haiphong, and Ho Chi Minh City.

Near East & South Asia

Internal, External Political Issues Reviewed

NC2203123591 Moscow in Persian to Iran
1500 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Yuriy Andreyev commentary]

[Text] The solar year 1369, filled with exciting political developments and incidents, is ending. This year was extremely complicated for the Iranian leadership. It had to solve a series of vital domestic and foreign political problems.

Undoubtedly President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the major star on Iran's political scene in 1369. Many Iranians attached their hopes to (?him). The Iranian president's policy in 1369 was one of (?devotion to Imam Khomeyni's) policy on gradual developments. President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani resorted to all (?his political expertise) and [word indistinct] to implement his views, and he was successful to a great extent.

First and foremost, the Iranian president succeeded in [words indistinct] of his (?former) stances. As we know, most of the members of Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet are extremely able experts in one economic and social branch or another [words indistinct].

Our analyst Yuriy Andreyev points out: I think that this granted the Iranian president the opportunity to adopt an independent and [word indistinct] policy in 1369 and to move toward an open-door policy in relation to the world abroad and refrain from the [words indistinct] of the Islamic Revolution. Undoubtedly the social and economic reforms, such as the encouragement of the private sector [words indistinct] (?further increased) in Iran.

But these reforms also led to serious controversies among Iran's higher echelons. Despite noteworthy efforts to create unity, controversies on many issues continued among these echelons. These controversies ranged from issues such as the establishment of government control over installations to relations with the West.

Apparently, the signs of moderation that appeared clearly in 1369 greatly terrified the Islamic fundamentalists, and accusations of deviating from Imam Khomeyni's views have become an ordinary phenomenon in Tehran.

Meanwhile, in 1369 success was achieved in the preservation of a kind of coexistence among the various factions in the ruling regime although, like before, problems between the technocrats and the fundamentalists were not basically solved.

Yuriy Andreyev writes in conclusion: In 1369, Iran's major success was scored in the field of foreign policy. As you know, as a result of the Kuwaiti crisis Tehran was able to regain the territories that were occupied under Iraqi Armed Forces, and Baghdad recognized the 1975

Algiers agreement. As to how all these will [words indistinct] (?should be discussed separately).

Ministry Aide on Saudi Ties, Mideast Policy

PM0404141591 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
29 Mar 91 p 20

[Interview with Sergey Vladimir, chief of the Gulf Section at the Soviet Foreign Ministry (name, title as published), by Bassam Kamal in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] [Kamal] How would you assess the course of Saudi-Soviet relations at present?

[Vladimir] The Soviet Union hopes to establish broad cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all fields. Undoubtedly the just, honorable, and constructive Soviet position during the Gulf crisis has strengthened the Arab states' confidence in the Soviet Union, especially as Moscow is seeking to strengthen its relations with the Arab states through political dialogue and the expansion of cooperation frameworks.

As for relations with the kingdom, the foundations for these relations were laid down before the crisis and before the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two states. This is in view of the two countries' identical views on many political issues in the region and the world. The rapprochement between them was reflected in the important visit to Moscow by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal and the visits to the kingdom by Soviet Foreign Ministry envoys.

Efforts are currently being made to develop the initial agreement on the resumption of diplomatic relations and the exchange of ambassadors. In the kingdom there is a Soviet diplomatic group headed by Aleksandr Jakbaksh [surname as transliterated], adviser at the Foreign Ministry. It is working to organize matters concerning the opening of the embassy, like choosing the building and the location and providing communication facilities and homes for the diplomats. At the same time in Moscow efforts are being made to choose a building for the Saudi embassy.

I believe that there are prospects for developing relations between the two countries in the economic field, since each side possesses many things that can be of benefit to the other, especially as the Soviet Union is now standing at the threshold of a new economic stage. New laws will be issued soon in relation to investment and the protection of foreign deposits in the country—which constitutes a good law for Arab capital and allows it to move boldly to establish investment ties with the Soviet Union. In the Soviet Union, which possesses all natural resources, it is easy to find room for successful investment.

[Kamal] What is the Soviet Government's position on the efforts to develop relations between the Islamic republics inside the Soviet Union in Central Asia and the Arab and Islamic states?

[Vladimir] We do not object at all to the establishment of these relations. In fact we support the establishment of bilateral relations with the Islamic republics inside the Soviet Union, especially with our neighbors in the south, since we are bound to them by historical and cultural ties.

[Kamal] Do you believe that the Afghan issue still affects the Soviet Union's relations with the Arab and Islamic states?

[Vladimir] Afghanistan no longer represents a point of disagreement between Moscow and the Arab states. And I do not see any major points of disagreement in that regard. The proof is the development of relations in the recent period. Thus Afghanistan is no longer a thorny issue in these relations.

[Kamal] How does Moscow view the resumption of relations between the kingdom and Iran?

[Vladimir] The absence of these relations between two states located in one geographical region was unnatural. Thus the restoration of relations between them represents a positive factor in the region.

[Kamal] How does Moscow view the current serious developments in Iraq?

[Vladimir] Moscow believes that the Iraqi people are the ones that have the right to choose their own leaders.

[Kamal] And what is Moscow's position on the efforts to establish peace in the region as a whole and on the proposed security arrangements?

[Vladimir] With regard to the region's security, Moscow believes in the need to guarantee the region's security primarily by peaceful and political means. That is, through agreements acceptable to all parties. Then there would be no need for more armament. Experience has shown the need to keep armament within the limits and boundaries of defensive considerations.

In that regard we call on all the region's states to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and sign a treaty banning chemical weapons.

As for the Middle East problem, the Soviet Union's position is that an international conference needs to be convened to settle the Middle East crisis. This is because convening such a conference would constitute a rational and fruitful method for the sake of arriving at a lasting settlement, even though bilateral and multilateral contacts may be conducted within the framework of the international conference itself.

Economic Engineering Delegation Ends Syrian Visit

LD0903084991 Moscow TASS in English 0836 GMT
9 Mar 91

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Shennikov]

[Text] Damascus March 9 TASS—The Soviet delegation led by Yuri Semenov, minister of power engineering and electrification, wound up its visit to Syria. During its

stay in the Syrian capital from March 4 to 8, the delegation attended a session of the joint Soviet-Syrian commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation.

The Soviet delegation met Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Minister of State for Planning Sabah Baqjaji, Minister of Electricity Kamil al-Baba and Minister of Irrigation 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani. They discussed Soviet-Syrian trade and economic cooperation and primarily the two countries' ties in power engineering.

The Soviet guests visited the Tishrin thermal and hydro electric power stations, which are under construction with the technical assistance of Soviet organisations.

Meetings and talks were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Angolan Leader Addresses Domestic, Regional Issues

PM0803103391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
6 Mar 91 Union Edition p 5

[Interview with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, by TASS correspondent A. Korzun and IZVESTIYA correspondent M. Pavlov in Luanda; date not given: "Interview With Angolan President"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Luanda—Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT], gave an interview to Soviet journalists accredited in Angola.

[IZVESTIYA] How do you see Angola's immediate future as regards its state system and political and economic orientation? How might other political parties' and their leaders' possible participation in leading the country affect Angola's future?

[Dos Santos] We have concrete confirmation that the course of openness and pluralism adopted by the Third MPLA-PT Congress last December has given a fresh boost to the development of our society. It created incentives for individual citizens, whole collectives, and associations to submit various initiatives which will make it possible in the near future to revive our economy on a new footing and launch an extensive exchange of opinions within the country. The establishment as of this April of a multiparty democracy in Angola will see the legislative formulation of political, social, and economic conditions for all citizens to participate in a most extensive and diverse manner in political life and in resolving the country's problems.

[IZVESTIYA] In this context what is your opinion of cooperation with the USSR and the prospects for it?

What mistakes have been made in our bilateral relations? What steps must be taken, in your view, to ensure that USSR-Angolan cooperation, including the national defense and security spheres, is mutually beneficial in view of the changes taking place in the world and in our two countries?

[Dos Santos] For many years Angolan-Soviet relations were of a privileged nature, which was largely determined until recently by the considerable coincidence of our ideological principles. Practice has shown that this is not, to all appearances, the most suitable means of resolving the problems facing our countries. Nevertheless that does not mean that the feelings on which this ideological proximity was based were insincere and that both sides did not believe in the effectiveness of this path and in attaining their aims in order to boost our peoples' prosperity. That is why I do not think there is any point here in speaking about the mistakes and shortcomings in our bilateral relations. They were only the kind of mistakes caused by circumstances and our stage of development. I now think it more important to reinterpret our cooperation at all levels in line with the new realities that have emerged in both countries, and without prejudice, in order to formulate mutually beneficial decisions, taking into consideration the long, close ties of friendship forged in the past, along with our sincere desire to maintain and strengthen them in the future.

[IZVESTIYA] What is your opinion of the transformations taking place in the USSR? What connection is there, if any, between Soviet perestroika, current international processes, and the reforms in Angola?

[Dos Santos] The in-depth transformations in the USSR are the subject of serious thought and at the same time profound concern for us. Soviet perestroika, which has to a considerable extent wrecked the socialist community's apparent stability, in fact provided the crucial impetus for all subsequent reforms in East Europe, the most striking of which being, perhaps, the unification of the two Germanies. The upshot of President Gorbachev's activity is that a true atmosphere of detente, dialogue, and rapprochement of positions has developed. Something that was inconceivable a few years ago. The consequences of this activity have had a positive effect on the situation worldwide, including on zones of so-called regional conflict. Nor has this process bypassed Southern Africa. I would, however, like to remind you that the reform process in Angola was conditioned by an analysis of our domestic realities and began in 1984-1985 at the time of the Second MPLA-PT Congress.

[IZVESTIYA] What are the prospects for political and economic ties with them [as published], be they bilateral or multilateral?

[Dos Santos] I want to point out the essential difference straightaway. In the first months after our declaration of independence Angola's relations with the West were normal and developed in line with international norms for coexistence between states. The only exception being

the United States, which to this day still does not recognize the Angolan Government and provides all-around backing for the armed gangs fighting it. The presence in Angola of Cuban troops was the original reason for this. Then the government was asked to share power with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. We are now being asked for UNITA to be recognized within the framework of the multiparty democracy. I do not know what other demands will be made tomorrow. We are ready even now to establish normal diplomatic relations with the United States, especially since some political contacts—but above all economic and trading contacts—have developed with virtually no friction since the proclamation of independence, not to mention the fact that the United States is our main commercial partner in the Western world. Talking about changing relations, the U.S. side should take the corresponding steps. As for the USSR's possible involvement in international aid for Angola's economic restoration, we always welcome that. We know of the difficulties that the Soviet economy is currently experiencing. We believe that the USSR can mobilize funds within the framework of existing accords between the Angolan Government and the international community.

[IZVESTIYA] How do you see Angola's future relations with the countries of your region, in particular with neighboring Zaire and South Africa?

[Dos Santos] It will all depend on the position that these countries' governments adopt on Angola. Our considerable rapprochement with Zaire has suffered ups and downs. The latter were to a considerable extent due to the Zairian authorities' acquiescence, or at least their adoption of a passive stance in allowing their territory to be used for the dispatch into Angola of personnel and equipment for UNITA's armed gangs.

As for South Africa, the contacts that we have recently begun to establish with President de Klerk's government attest that relations are possible and, what is more, can be improved provided South Africa ends its military support for UNITA and the process of domestic reform begun by the government deepens and results in the elimination of apartheid. In economic terms South Africa is our region's leading country. Multilateral cooperation between the states of this region can only benefit everyone.

Status of Angolan Settlement Talks Examined

PM1103115391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
7 Mar 91 Union Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent L. Kostanyan: "The Arithmetic of Talks on Angola"]

[Text] Lisbon—It is perfectly clear that it is no easy matter achieving peace in Angola after 15 years of armed confrontation. There have now been five rounds of talks in Portugal, with the foreign ministry acting as intermediary, between an Angolan government delegation and

representatives of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] armed opposition. The other day, for the second time, experts from Portugal, the United States, and the Soviet Union conferred in Lisbon.

I would remind you that the documents defining the cease-fire terms and principles of a peace settlement and the creation of a new political structure in Angola are ready and were placed on the negotiating table at the Portuguese Foreign Ministry at the beginning of February for signing. The delegations from Luanda and Jamba, where UNITA headquarters is situated, did not sign the documents. The government representatives stated the condition that 15 April should be named as the date for a cease-fire and the UNITA people replied by insisting that a general election on a multiparty basis should be held in Angola not more than a year after that. As a result the meeting broke down. The sixth round essentially did not take place.

Nonetheless, the situation is by no means hopeless. In the first place, the documents prepared for the sixth round were in principle adopted by the sides without any changes and remain a basis for reconciliation. It is a question of the cease-fire date and the timeframe for the creation of new national armed forces and for holding elections. The communique on the results of the experts' consultations refers to the need for both sides to agree without too much delay on "realistic and concrete proposals," which would bring the talks to an end as quickly as possible. It also notes that the U.S., USSR, and Portuguese delegations suggested to the Angolan government and UNITA this month that they send representatives to Portugal to start intensive work not on the issue as a whole, but on groups of questions with the aim of finding practical solutions. The experts also recommended that a UN observer should be brought into the talks on a technical basis, in the belief that this could hasten a cease-fire.

So what are the actual stages of a peace settlement? At any rate, what have the specialists set their sights on? There is nothing about this in the communique, of course, although one hears the experts saying behind the scenes: We did the work, while the rivals looked on; now it is time to change places.

Commentaries Assess Current Situation in Ethiopia

Situation Remains 'Very Serious'

EA1303172591 Moscow International Service
in Amharic 1500 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Aleksandr Mikhaylov commentary]

[Text] According to the Eritrean People's Liberation Front radio, its combatants have seized the town 160 km north of Aseb Port along the Red Sea coast. At the same time, according to the Tigre People's Liberation Front radio, its combatants have completely captured Gonder

and repulsed a government offensive in Shewa and Gojam Regions. Previously Gojam Region was reported to have been captured by guerrilla combatants. Another opposition group, the Oromo Liberation Front [OLF], has also claimed to have inflicted repeated damage on government forces.

Official reports from Addis Ababa on these issues are very limited. They do not admit or deny any opposition claims. What they say is that heavy fighting is going on in several parts of the country and that its forces are scoring victories. In fact, the exact location of the war front is not clearly stated so it has become difficult for listeners and readers to know exactly what is going on.

The objective of the opposition groups' offensive is clear: to cut Addis Ababa off from the northern regions and Aseb Port then subject the central government to siege and advance to the center of the country. Aseb's destiny determines the Ethiopian Army's fate in Asmera, and the opposition groups know this very well. The Army is the pride of the Ethiopian Government. It is through this force that the Ethiopian Government hopes to bring peace to northern Ethiopia, but it has become difficult to supply the Army.

The Ethiopian guerrilla combatants are not simple ambush groups; they are great fighting forces. In fact, the Ethiopian Government itself does not deny that the guerrilla fighters have tanks and heavy artillery. It is believed in Addis Ababa that the current situation is so serious that the country's future will be decided by the outcome on the battlefield. The State Council has called on the people to stand alongside the army and fight the enemy. Soon after the call, several rallies were held.

The situation in Ethiopia is very serious. The threat is not only to Ethiopia but to the rest of the Horn of Africa. What we can see from previous similar situations is that it is difficult to solve problems through meetings and arguments. It is also impossible to solve problems through military might. No matter who emerges victorious militarily, it is difficult to achieve peace; instead a new war might be sparked immediately. It is only when all the warring parties desire a genuine dialogue and discuss matters with goodwill that peace can prevail. For the sake of future peace, it is desirable that this process be started.

Country May See Fragmentation

EA0703110991 Moscow International Service
in Amharic 1500 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Aleksandr Mikhaylov commentary]

[Text] According to the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] statement on Sunday [3 March], it has fully liberated the Gojam region in Ethiopia. It was also reported that Gojam is now free from the central government. Aleksandr Mikhaylov has the following comment:

The EPRDF consists of the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement. These two organizations under their joint name, EPRDF, are of late carrying out military activities in conjunction with the Eritrean People's Liberation Front; along with the Oromo Liberation Front, they have been reporting victories over the government during the week.

There are many, minor opposition organizations in Ethiopia. Though their programs are different, their objective is the same—to overthrow the government of Mengistu Haile-Mariam. The organizations view this government as an impediment to carrying out their objectives and realizing their dreams.

It is not correct to claim that the Ethiopian Government has not yet realized the gravity of the situation. It has been making efforts to implement the preconditions proposed by opposition groups. This was manifested by the reform in their economic policy. This policy has been supported by the West both morally and financially, but the results are yet to be seen. It is impossible to achieve economic results while fighting a civil war. Hence changes should be made not only in the economic sector, but also in the political sector. In the political sector, the authorities have stated that Ethiopia is deviating from socialism and has decided to change the name of the ruling party.

The methods of carrying out peace talks with opposition groups have not changed. All proposals aimed at bringing about peace are immediately dropped if they slightly affect the government's authority. The approach of the opposition groups is also not perfect.

There is a real danger now that Ethiopia might be fragmented, for the central government is currently very weak. Responsibility rests with the central government in Addis Ababa, which should avoid such a sad situation from becoming a reality. It is only the government's ability to negotiate that will determine whether a peaceful Ethiopia may exist. It is necessary to know the objective reality. It is a fact that Eritrea and Tigray regions are under the control of the opposition groups. Many hundreds of Ethiopians are dying on the war fronts every day. The threat of famine is hovering over the heads of about 4,000,000 Ethiopians. It is necessary to stop the destruction and dismemberment immediately.

Origin of Eritrea Conflict Outlined

EA1403193491 Moscow International Service
in Amharic 1500 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Report on NEW TIMES article by Aleksey Bukalov: "Retreating Toward Federation"]

[Text] In its latest issue, the Soviet weekly NEW TIMES carried an article entitled Retreating Toward Federation and attributed to Aleksey Bukalov, a commentator on Horn of Africa affairs. Here are the contents:

In the ancient land of Abyssinia, says Aleksey Bukalov, different nationalities, languages, religions, and customs coexisted for centuries, intermingling together. In modern history, two kings, Menelik and Haile Selassie, are remembered for their coordination or establishing of central government. The last territory the latter king annexed to Ethiopia was Eritrea. We might as well say the Red Sea coast. By getting a UN mandate, Haile Selassie managed to federate Eritrea with Ethiopia in 1952. Later on, the king managed to keep Eritrea as one region of Ethiopia, after 10 years of federation, through his own unilateral decision.

Soon after that the local rebels began fighting the monarchy in their armed struggle. The struggle was bitter and employed modern arms, including those of the USSR. It has become bloody and has caused devastation and many deaths. The number of those who have been taken prisoner in the civil war or who have been displaced and fled their country has reached many hundreds of thousands. Mitsiwa and Asmera, which were once flourishing and developed, are now war-ravaged towns.

What I would like to point out here, says the author of the article, is that the two opposing sides are both using arms manufactured by the USSR. While the government forces obtain the arms through mutual government agreements, the rebels obtain them from Arab governments. The Eritrean problem has never been said to be an internal affair of Ethiopia. As the situation became more complex, the approach of foreign forces to the problem changed accordingly. For example, we can cite the idea of dismembering Eritrea from Ethiopia and letting the Red Sea become Arab waters, and the new independent government registering Eritrea in the Arab League.

It is to be recalled that at different times, leaders of Middle Eastern countries holding antagonistic ideologies have supported this idea. According to Western reporters, among those who support the Eritrean secessionist groups are oil-producing sheikhs and Arab leaders like al-Qadhadhafi and Saddam Husayn. Anyway, says the commentator, the Menelik and Haile Selassie regimes, like other monarchical rulers, failed to retain their former status. The civil war that engulfed the northern part of Ethiopia in the 60's and the 70's, instead of simmering down after the 1974 revolution, was ignited with increased vigor. The severe drought and famine which is the other side of the war has forced the Addis Ababa regime to show a degree goodwill which it had never shown before. It has reportedly offered a federation to the rebels.

One of the founders of the United States, Benjamin Franklin, said: The great monarchy or czarist leadership will easily crumble. [as heard] The saying still holds good today. Narrow nationalism has become a fashion and is spreading faster in our planet than AIDS. The issue of federation and referendum has affected not only the developed countries but also the ancient African land of Ethiopia. In any case, says Aleksey Bukalov, current

events in the Horn of Africa show that issues of federation, confederation, or secession can only be resolved at the negotiating table. Second, it cannot be denied that the massive supplying of arms to tense areas in the world can only serve to subject their civilians to untold sufferings.

Falasha Emigrations Unclear

EA1703205491 Moscow International Service
in Amharic 1500 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Vladimir Borisov commentary]

[Text] The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] has said that it is wiping out the enemy forces from their positions, and so far, one-quarter of the total area of Ethiopia is under its control. The opposition group has captured Gonder and Gojam. The fear is increasing that the roads linking Addis Ababa will be closed. It has been learned that the war front has moved to within 100 km of the capital city.

According to the American Embassy in Ethiopia, the situation is alarming. It has also been learned that some of the American Embassy staff are returning home.

In another development, the emigration of the Ethiopian Falashas to Israel has been stopped for a while. According to the Falashas' representative in Jerusalem, the step has been taken because the Ethiopian Government wants to put pressure on the Israeli Government to help them with arms to defend against the advance of the Ethiopian opposition groups. This was refuted by Ethiopian and Israeli officials during the week, however. It was also said that the emigration of the Falashas has been stopped due to technical problems, and as soon as the problems are solved, the process will start again.

Scientific Accord Signed With Guinea-Bissau

LD2903084991 Moscow TASS in English 0819 GMT
29 Mar 91

[By TASS correspondent Anatoliy Metelkin]

[Text] Bissau March 29 TASS—The Soviet Union and Guinea-Bissau on Thursday [28 March] signed a protocol on scientific and cultural cooperation for 1991.

The protocol regulates contacts and ties between the two countries' state and public organisations in education, science and culture. The sides will also increase exchanges of books on science and television and radio programmes.

Addressing the gathering, Guinea-Bissau International Cooperation Minister Bernardino Cardozo noted that the protocol lays the foundation for new agreements in the humanitarian sphere and will promote traditional friendly ties between the Soviet Union and Guinea-Bissau since the republic gained independence.

Petrovskiy Comments on Relations With Kenya

LD1903220191 Moscow World Service in English
1630 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Interview with USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—Petrovskiy's comments are in Russian with superimposed English translation; recorded]

[Text] It was already reported that the Kenyan Foreign Minister Wilson Ndolo Ayah recently received a Soviet delegation in Nairobi headed by the USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy. After returning home the deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Political Department gave an interview to our correspondent:

[Correspondent] During your meeting in Nairobi it was stated that there was an improvement of relations between the USSR and Kenya. How does the USSR Foreign Ministry view this improvement?

[Petrovskiy] During our talks with the minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation of Kenya we stressed that the Soviet Union attaches an important role to the consolidation and development of friendly relations with African countries. In particular we expressed our satisfaction with the activation recently of Soviet-Kenyan ties and said that we were for their expansion. What do we concretely have in mind under the improvement of Soviet-Kenyan relations? It is giving them a more weighty content and making them more fruitful. It is first of all the question of consolidating and developing the practice of political consultations which were established recently between Moscow and Nairobi. We consider that in the course of such consultations what deserves attention are a joint concentration of efforts on the unblocking of conflict and crisis situations on the African continent.

We took note of the constructive positions of Kenya on these problems and considered that a dialogue on these questions would be very useful and could form the basis for intensifying cooperation between our countries in other directions, too. In order to give our relations long-term durability and stability, we consider it important to fill them with economic content. We said that we stood for expanding the practice of forming joint enterprises and for establishing contacts between the trade chambers of various regions of our countries. Finally, under the improvement of our relations, we have in mind the expansion of cultural ties. In particular I am sure many people in our country would be interested in the achievements in decorative and applied art of the masters from the tribe of (Akamba) and maybe from other tribes, too. Handicraftsmen of the Soviet Union, too, have things to show to the Kenyans.

In this multi-faceted spectrum of the improvement of relations an important link may be the expansion of interparliamentary ties. We were quite satisfied with how the Soviet delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet

was welcomed in Nairobi and are now getting ready to welcome a parliamentary delegation of Kenya in Moscow. The capacious [as heard] notion verbally expressed as the improvement of Soviet-Kenyan relations is combined in the complex fulfillment of all these measures.

[Correspondent] In today's mass media much attention is given to discussions about the priorities of Soviet foreign policy and which trend should be the main one—cooperation with the developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, or with the advanced West. What is your point of view concerning the perspectives of cooperation with Africa?

[Petrovskiy] I think it is good that discussion on these questions is now under way. They show that our public, our country, want the relations with African and other developing countries to always be in the field of vision of our foreign policy. This fully corresponds to our present foreign policy course. Today we have entered the stage of our foreign policy when it is necessary to build not some kind of a selective but really global cooperation.

New Soviet Ambassador Appointed to Lesotho

PM0603165791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Mar 91 Union Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Chronicle"]

[Text] The President of the USSR has appointed Anatoliy Ashotovitch Mkrtchyan USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Trifonov Appointed Ambassador to Mauritius

PM2703145391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Mar 91 Union Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] The USSR president has appointed Viktor Ivanovich Trifonov USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Mauritius.

The USSR president has released Yuriy Alekseyevich Kirichenko from his duties as USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Mauritius on his transfer to other work.

Gayvoronskiy, Shubin Visit Namibia, Zimbabwe

PM2003151991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
19 Mar 91 Second Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Delegation Departs"]

[Text] At the invitation of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), a CPSU delegation comprising V.A. Gayvoronskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat, and V.G. Shubin, leader

of a CPSU Central Committee International Department group, left for Windhoek to take part in the celebration of the first anniversary of Namibian independence on 18 March.

The delegation will also visit Zimbabwe.

Namibia's Nujoma Receives Delegation

PM0404090991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
27 Mar 91 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meetings in Namibia"]

[Text] Windhoek, 26 March—On Monday Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia and of SWAPO [South West African People's Organization], received a CPSU delegation which was participating in the festivities marking the first anniversary of the proclamation of Namibian independence. In the delegation were V.A. Gayvoronskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat, and V.G. Shubin, leader of the Africa group in the CPSU Central Committee International Department.

During the talk questions of the relations between the two states and between the CPSU and SWAPO, and the problems of southern Africa were discussed.

Delegation Returns From Celebration

PM0204153391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
29 Mar 91 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the "Official Announcements" rubric]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by V.A. Gayvoronskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat, returned to Moscow from Windhoek 28 March after taking part in celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the proclamation of Namibian independence at the invitation of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

Commentary Views Return of South African Exiles

MB0803151891 Moscow in Afrikaans to Southern Africa 1830 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Yuriy Yuravlov commentary]

[Text] The first political exiles are now beginning to return to South Africa. Yuriy Yuravlov comments:

The South African Government has identified 14 points at which returning political immigrants can present themselves. Gene Louw, South African home affairs minister, said that the majority of these persons wish to retain South African citizenship and that they can look to the government for assistance.

This event is a direct consequence of the agreement reached last August between the African National Congress [ANC] and the authorities. In exchange for the

cessation of the armed struggle by the ANC, the government would release all political prisoners and allow exiles to return to the country of their birth.

The prisoners are leaving their cells. Now it is the turn of political exiles. According to official figures, they number about 10,000. The ANC claims, however, that the number is four times as high. UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesmen quote a figure of 60,000.

Declarations by 5,976 immigrants are currently being dealt with by the authorities. Positive replies have so far been received by 2,874 of these persons. This figure is clearly an insignificant percentage of all the people who at various times were forced to leave the country due to political persecution.

What is the problem? Or is it simply that the rest do not want to return to their fatherland? The truth is much more simple, but also much more complicated. South Africans are currently living in two separate political worlds. The final abolition of apartheid and all related laws has been announced by the government, but up to now it has merely been rhetoric. In practice too many issues are still determined by old laws and practices.

The same applies to political immigrants [as heard]. The notorious Internal Security Act still remains. It is intended that during the current session of legislature a few changes will be made to the act to bring it into line with the changing circumstances. It is, of course, good to learn that the police units involved in the war against internal terrorism—which is actually a war against the national liberation movements—are to be disbanded.

Although this reorganization will only take place by 1 April, the black political organizations have already been unbanned for more than a year. But that racist monster, the Internal Security Act, remains in force. All those who wish to return from exile will again risk falling into its clutches, and the majority of these persons do not even know what charges they may face. Naturally, these people will be afraid to return. Indeed, the government has rejected the ANC's proposal of a general amnesty, which would have greatly simplified procedures for their return.

It is clear that the new rays of light starting to shine in South Africa are also welcomed far beyond its borders. But it is not all plain sailing. There are still many problems and mutual suspicions. I believe that if the government scrapped the Internal Security Act it would have been a significant step toward the normalization of the internal situation in the country.

Such a step would have denied the ultra-right wing, which is firmly rooted in the country's security forces, the opportunity of exploiting the dangerous tensions that prevail and promoting interethnic conflict. Also, the

return of political exiles would have taken place more speedily and with fewer hitches.

Radio Comments on Sudanese Opposition Plans

EA2403091291 Moscow International Service
in Amharic 22 Mar 91

[Vladimir Borisov commentary]

[Text] Nine Sudanese opposition groups met in Addis Ababa and mapped out plans to overthrow the Al-Bashir government. Bona Nalwal, a former minister, chaired the meeting. During a press release, he said that the struggle against the junta will not include force. According to the plan, the sole way to struggle against the regime is by staging strikes and refusing to obey the government.

The Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], which is waging an armed struggle, also participated in the Addis Ababa meeting. This organization operates in southern Sudan. The southern Christians are struggling against the northern Muslim administration. The Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi regime was overthrown in June, 1989 by the present military rulers, and since then the generals have banned all political parties and workers' associations.

The Sudanese opposition groups have a golden opportunity to intensify their struggle. The country is starving as a result of the fighting and economic crisis. According to a study by international experts, severe famine is threatening the country. Thousands of people are fleeing from their homesteads and heading to the towns in search of food.

If the people's dissatisfaction is aggravated further and if it is changed into a political opposition, then the regime will not have the power to control the situation. Numayri's dictatorial regime was overthrown in this way and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government was likewise overthrown because there was dissatisfaction among the people. Besides, the current solidarity of the northern Muslim political opposition forces and the southern guerrilla fighters will help solve the main Sudanese problems and bring peace. This will be attained only when the present regime is overthrown.

Meanwhile, the Khartoum government as of today will apply the Shari'ah law on the six northern provinces of the country. This law will not apply to the three southern provinces. The Khartoum government is trying to make Sudan a federal state. Every federal state will have the right to its own administration. The Khartoum government believes that the introduction of federation will solve the contradictions of the northern Muslims and the southern non-Arab citizens. During the Addis Ababa meeting, however, the opposition groups said regarding the federation proposal that the lying dictatorial regime's proposal has no use.

All the same, the Sudanese opposition groups, strengthening their solidarity, are going to start their attack on

the Al-Bashir regime, and it can also be said that the Al-Bashir regime is also ready for it. None of the participants of the conflicts in the Horn of Africa are ready for a dialogue and this goes for the Sudanese as well. The sole solution is to emerge from the confusion. Hence, if the Sudanese opposition groups do not agree to an internal dialogue with themselves, peace cannot prevail in Sudan in the near future.

East Europe

Pavlov Receives Czech Premier Pithart

PM1403143191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
9 Mar 91 Moscow Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talk in Kremlin"]

[Text] On 7 March USSR Prime Minister V.S. Pavlov received P. Pithart, chairman of the Czech Government, who is in Moscow on a working visit at the invitation of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Government.

There was a discussion of a wide range of questions of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations and the prospects for cooperation in various fields. P. Pithart stressed that Czechoslovakia has always seen in stable relations with the Soviet Union an important factor for its economic development and would like to preserve for the future the good traditions of Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation. In a spirit of mutual interest there was an examination of questions of economic relations and the desire was voiced to overcome the difficulties which have arisen in mutual trade. It was stipulated that the examination of all problems of mutual interest, including the expansion of exchanges in the sphere of science and culture and contacts between people, will be continued during subsequent contacts at the level of the governments of the two countries and individual republics.

The talk, in which S.A. Sitaryan, N.G. Malyshev, Czech Minister of Industry J. Vrba, and R. Slansky, CSFR ambassador to the USSR, took part, passed in a friendly atmosphere.

Ethnic Minorities in Poland Face Conflicts

PM1203135591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
9 Mar 91 Second Edition p 6

[Correspondent A. Starukhin's reply to reader's letter: "Poland: Nationalities Question Too?"—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "We are tired of interethnic strife. How then do people in other countries live without conflicts? I am not talking about the United States. Surely Poles do not live alone in neighboring Poland? But I daresay they exist without problems.

"F. Cheremisin, Nizhniy Tagil"

Warsaw—You know, the 38 million people in Poland are not at all homogeneous. It is of course illegitimate to draw parallels with our problems in this instance. All the same, to what extent do approximately 300,000 Belorussians, approximately 420,000 Ukrainians, 30,000 Lithuanians, and also Germans and Russians live peaceably east of the Soviet-Polish border along the Bug River...?

Let us take the Belorussian national population. It is "tightly" concentrated in Bialystok and Biala Podlaska Voivodships. Belorussians have lived in this area for centuries. Their villages can be distinguished from "purely Polish" ones by their simpler and more modest houses. The network of social, educational, and medical institutions is somewhat more thinly spread.

Last summer I happened to visit these areas and talked with the people. Mikolaj Wroblewski, one of the activists of the Belorussian movement in Poland, accounted for the degree of economic backwardness of the "eastern regions" by the noticeably less generous investment from the Polish Government side.

The small Belorussian language newspaper NIWA is published in this region, and there are two national high schools, although they only offer "obligatory teaching of the Belorussian language"—everything else is in Polish. There is a department of Belorussian philology at Warsaw University. Belorussians are proud of their writer S. Janowicz, who is well known in Poland. The artist L. Tarasiewicz is also known in other European countries. The village population tries to preserve its folk customs, its culture, and to attend its orthodox church.... But this is just one aspect of the matter. Here is the other. In recent years about 14 Belorussian churches have been burned down—relations are strained with the Roman Catholic Church, which predominates in Poland, its parishioners, and the population in general. In elementary schools the number of classes where Belorussian is studied has been reduced, while a large number of young people from "Belorussian" villages travel out to "Polish" towns every year, where they are "assimilated." The government newspaper RZECZPOSPOLITA reported: Year in, year out approximately 100,000 hectares of land in the Belorussian region remain unmanaged, the land is transferred to the state or falls into neglect.

Belorussians clearly expressed their attitude toward the composition of the institutions of higher state power at the time of the recent presidential elections: Up to 92 percent of the voters in the places where the Belorussian population is concentrated cast their votes for the left-wing candidate W. Cimoszewicz. But if we take a look into parliament today we shall find there only one deputy "from the Belorussians," and one "from the Ukrainians." Such is the result of the way the electoral district boundaries are drawn up—whereby the Polish

population is bound to be in the majority and correspondingly guarantees itself the advantage in the elective bodies.

As regards the Ukrainian minority, it, too, has similar problems that are peculiar to it.

For a long time the official Polish authorities on the whole denied there was a "nationalities question," and the existence of the German minority was not acknowledged at all. It does exist, however; it is settled through the areas of Upper and Lower Silesia, and partly in the Baltic region. It regularly advertises itself by issuing various demands. For example a recent one for autonomous status....

Cultural, Scientific Program Signed With Romania

*LD2803173791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak
Network in Russian 1530 GMT 28 Mar 91*

[Text] A program of cultural and scientific cooperation between our country and Romania has been signed in Bucharest. The sides have pledged to broaden on a reciprocal basis business contacts between various departments and among the numerous scientific and artistic collectives.

Agreement Signed With Romania on Abolishing Visas

*LD1203020191 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1027 GMT 11 Mar 91*

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest, 11 Mar (TASS)—An agreement between the USSR and Romania on the abolition of visa requirements has been signed in the Romanian capital today. The document was signed by Yu. A. Kvitsinskiy, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Romulus Neagu, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In keeping with the provisions of the new document, the residents of the two countries can, on the basis of travel documents, enter and leave, travel in transit, and stay on the territory of the other side without visas. Citizens travelling on private visits can stay on the territory of the other side for 90 days. This does not apply to those who wish to settle in one country or the other as a permanent place of residence.

The agreement has to be approved by the governments of both countries in accordance with the legislation of each side, and will come into force 30 days after the exchange of notes.

During his stay in Romania, Yu. A. Kvitsinskiy had talks with the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of this country on the occasion of drawing up a new agreement on cooperation, good-neighborliness, and friendship between the two states.

West Europe

Role Seen in Projected European Energy System

PM1503123591 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 13 Mar 91 First Edition p 5

[Report by Vladimir Katin: "Politics on the Scales of the Energy Sector"]

[Text] Brussels—Discussions in the European Commission and in the press over how far and on what terms assistance should be accorded to the Soviet Union, and whether this should be done at all, have suddenly subsided. The fact is that computers and levelheaded experts, having cast off political preconceptions, are approaching the question from the other end: What contribution does the USSR make toward solving West Europe's energy problem? Quite a large one it seems. Ten percent of all imported oil and even greater quantities of natural gas derive from our country, while in France we are the top suppliers of energy resources. Furthermore, it emerged that a number of French firms, Total in particular, have already concluded major contracts with the USSR Ministry of Geology to produce and refine oil jointly in the Timano-Pechorskiy Basin. Nowadays, businessmen from Germany, Great Britain, and other European countries are jostling and competing with each other in the rush to get to Soviet oil deposits.

That is why members of the business world are imploring their governments to stay on good terms with the Soviet Union and not to give way to emotions as regards some of our internal affairs. The business milieu fears that planned deliveries of oil and gas may suffer as a result of the Union's internal disorder. A few days ago, Jean Masseron, director of the French Oil Institute, stated: "Personally, I identify with the many people who consider that the progress of events in the Soviet Union holds greater significance for the oil market than everything which is going on in the Near and Middle East. There is apprehension over the Soviet Government's intention to halt exports of crude oil."

Meanwhile, the European Community is adopting emergency measures. These comprise all kinds of prescriptions for economizing on fuel and electricity, for reducing the speed of cars on the roads, and so on. But the program's showpiece is the general European energy charter which is intended to unite the countries creating a joint system for obtaining and distributing all kinds of energy sources. Jacques Delors, chairman of the EEC Commission, has just announced this in Brussels and has empowered his colleagues to elaborate and submit a draft charter.

I was able to get a look at the first version of this charter. From the text one thing is clear—the Soviet Union will play a significant role in the proposed energy union. That is understandable.... It would be appropriate to remember that for us the door to other exclusive European clubs is either closed or can be opened by invitation only. The EEC, for example, the Council of Europe, and

the European legislature. But as we can see, it is another matter altogether when it comes to oil and gas, both of which we have in abundance.

Obviously, Europe's single energy market will become a reality soon. It will not be an association comprising a small circle of countries but a ramified system of general European cooperation to provide all kinds of energy. It is possible that this will mark the start of a new policy on cooperation where all parties will respect one another, remembering that if you help your neighbor today then the gesture will be returned tomorrow. After all, everybody must be warm under the common roof of the European home.

NATO's Woerner Receives Soviet Legislators

LD1402102291 Moscow TASS in English 0652 GMT
14 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Vlaeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels February 14 TASS—NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner received a delegation of Soviet legislators headed by Y. Samsonov, Deputy Chairman of the Soviet legislative Defence and State Security Committee, in Brussels on Wednesday.

The delegation participated in a joint session of the economic, scientific and technological committees of the North Atlantic Assembly to discuss problems of and prospects for economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the east and west.

Woerner and the legislators expressed interest in developing contacts between the USSR and NATO, including legislative cooperation.

They called for a dialogue to promote confidence and partnership between NATO and the Soviet Union.

European Bank Leader Holds News Conference

PM1903091191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Mar 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent Mikhail Berger: "J. Attali News Conference"]

[Text] Moscow—J. Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), has held a news conference at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center.

The fact that the EBRD president dodged with impeccable skill all the journalists' questions proposing in one form or another than he assess the Soviet leadership's domestic policy, showed for the umpteenth time that J. Attali is a politician first and a banker second. To a question about whether his talks with M. Gorbachev show that the West supports in principle and will continue to support the policy pursued by M. Gorbachev, J. Attali replied as follows: The European Bank is not a tool for providing Western aid to the East. The EBRD is an

institution for setting up market economies. The West, as well as the Soviet Union, has an interest in this. The question is not to provide aid covered by various conditions, but to develop a unified economic space.

At the news conference J. Attali stressed that the EBRD is the first European bank of which the Soviet Union is a full member. The USSR's inclusion in the world economy, he noted, is in the interests of all of Europe. Talking about the type of economy which the Soviet Union prefers, J. Attali suggested that this will be a market based on democracy, but probably not entirely similar to the market which already exists in the West. The development of contemporary civilization shows that there is no way other than to create a market economy, from which democracy is inseparable. But even if there are many different market models in Europe, the USSR could become yet another example of this diversity. As for specific cooperation projects, these will cover cadre training, the promotion of privatization, and the development of individual industrial sectors.

Is the EBRD more optimistic than the Western commercial banks, some of which are curtailing their relations with the Soviet Union? Answering this question, J. Attali said that the EBRD is not a commercial bank. We must be somewhat bolder than the commercial banks, but, at the same time, we must work on the basis that our investment will be recouped, that loans will be paid off, and that we earn a profit from our services. This is one method of training our partner countries, J. Attali added.

One would like to hope that participation in the EBRD will not only bring us economic advantage, but all also help us to learn the science of dealing efficiently with money.

Finnish Interest in Former GDR Weapons Noted

*PM0504093191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
1 Apr 91 Union Edition p 1*

[Report under the IZVESTIYA, TASS, POSTFACTUM, REUTER, UPI column: "The Purchase by Finland of Soviet Weapons in FRG"]

[Text] The newspaper HELSINGIN SANOMAT reports that, in response to an offer from the FRG Defense Ministry to sell to Finland Soviet military hardware in what used to be the GDR, Finnish Defense Ministry spokesman Pajunen announced following a visit to Germany that the FRG is offering the same Soviet military hardware which Finland at one time purchased direct from the Soviet Union. Finland had informed military representatives in the FRG that it was interested in purchasing anti-aircraft gun mounts for air defense and small arms, as well as artillery and various types of ammunition. Soviet MiG-29 fighter aircraft arouse significant interest, but the Germans cannot guarantee their technical maintenance or supply the necessary spare parts. T-72 tanks could also be of use to Finland.

Finnish Trade Deliveries to USSR Decline

*PM2803135191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 Mar 91 Second Edition p 1*

[Item in TASS roundup dated 22 March under the rubric "The World and Politics Over 24 Hours": "USSR-Finland"]

[Text] Deliveries of Finnish products to the Soviet Union were more than halved over the past year. Exports to the USSR in January and February amounted to 856 million Finnish markkas, or 5.8 percent of the total volume, which is 56 percent less than during the same period last year. In the sphere of Finnish trade with the Soviet Union a deficit of 277 million markkas has formed, since Soviet exports to Finland during the first two months of this year totaled 1.133 billion markkas—28 percent less than a year ago.

Joint Soviet-French Commercial Radio Launched

*LD1403091891 Moscow International Service
in French 1800 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] At the launch of the first commercial radio, Europe Plus Moscow, founded by Europe Plus France and the Soviet group, Sat Tele Export, the radio's official inauguration of the radio benefited from the presence of Mr. Jack Lang [French culture minister], who came especially for the occasion. At a press conference he declared:

[Begin recording] For Europe Plus Moscow, I would like to say in a few words that it is a special occasion because it is the first commercial foreign radio in Moscow. [passage omitted] It is a joint French-Soviet venture in the sphere of radio; it is thus a first. This new radio can reach 17 million listeners with in a radius of 200 km around Moscow. The Europe Plus Moscow program comprises more than 60 percent of French songs; the presentation will be in Russian; and the news bulletins will be in several languages: Russian, French, and English. It must also be said that there are other commercial radios in Moscow, but they are in a different situation because they only rent short broadcast slots from Soviet radios. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ivashko Meets French Communist Party Official

*PM1803143791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
16 Mar 91 Second Edition p 5*

[TASS report under general headline: "Official Reports"]

[Text] V.A. Ivashko, deputy general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met with M. Gremetz, member of the Politburo and secretary of the French Communist Party [PCF] Central Committee, 15 March.

During a friendly conversation they had a thorough exchange of information regarding the activity of both

parties. Ivashko described the development of the situation in the country in connection with the upcoming Union referendum and the CPSU's increasing activity to rally forces in favor of a unified Union and socialist choice governing society's development.

The sides exchanged opinions on current questions relating to the international situation, in particular in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis and the need for an overall Near East settlement. They discussed the program for CPSU-PCF cooperation and certain questions of strengthening international solidarity.

FRG Staff College Delegation in Moscow for Talks

*LD1803174791 Berlin ADN in German 1517 GMT
18 Mar 91*

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—A delegation of the Bundeswehr Command and General Staff College arrived in Moscow today for a five-day visit. According to information from the Hamburg Academy, the visit is a "contribution to confidence-building and the further development of fundamental contacts" between the armed forces of the two countries. The delegation is headed by Major General Klaus Reinhardt, the commander of the Staff College.

Talks with the leadership of the Soviet Military Academy, among other issues on "Changes of the NATO strategy and their consequences for the structure of armed forces" and "German security and defense politics in a changed general situation" are on the agenda in Moscow. The development of contacts between the two institutions (Soviet Military Academy and Bundeswehr Staff College) will also be discussed. The visit is to be concluded with a meeting with Army General Mikhail Moiseyev, the general chief of staff of the USSR's forces.

The visit is part of the program for contacts between the Bundeswehr and the Soviet Army agreed during the visit to the USSR in May 1989 of Admiral Dieter Wellershoff. Following the example of this program, which is being carried out satisfactorily according to the Hamburg Academy's assessment, similar agreements were concluded last year with the CSFR, Poland, and Hungary.

FRG Ready To Compensate for Nazi War Crimes

*PM1103132591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
8 Mar 91 Union Edition p 6*

[Report by correspondent Y. Bovkun: "Compensation for War Victims—Duty or Goodwill Gesture?"]

[Excerpts] Bonn—USSR Deputy Foreign minister Yu.A. Kvitsinskiy has held preliminary talks in Bonn with his German counterparts on possible compensation for Soviet citizens who suffered from Nazi crimes during the war. The German Government has not yet taken an official decision. But the relevant readiness has been confirmed. It is linked here primarily with the process of

Germany's renewal and with a number of bilateral treaties reflecting the new quality of USSR-FRG relations. [passage omitted]

There is no agreement between our countries whereby the FRG authorities would be obliged to examine a particular request for compensation for USSR citizens who suffered in Hitler's camps or for their relations. As far as I know the Soviet side has made no such claims. The German side would obviously not have set about examining them. The Bonn politicians regarded the absence of a peace treaty which would have regulated postwar relations between the USSR and the FRG as an obstacle on the path toward such an accord.

Only now, after Germany's unification and the signing of a package of treaties and agreements, including the treaty on good-neighborliness, partnership and cooperation and the treaty on a definitive settlement with regard to Germany, only just ratified in the USSR Supreme Soviet, does the solution of the compensation question become fundamentally possible.

Paying old account and in particular receiving anything from them is not always successful. But the problem of compensation for the sufferings borne during World War II is too important to be reduced to the fate of one or even several groups of the population. It must be raised and resolved broadly, in accordance with international laws and legal norms.

In March the USSR and the FRG will hold talks on the conclusion of an agreement on compensations for the victims of war. Only after that will we be able to give our readers specific information about all the details which interest them.

FRG's Naval Inspector Ends Official Visit

*PM1503153191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 12 Mar 91 First Edition p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Visit Concluded"]

[Text] Vice Admiral H.-J. Mann, inspector of the FRG Navy, has left for home after an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and USSR deputy defense minister.

The visitor and accompanying officials were seen off at the airport by Admiral of the Fleet Chernavin and other admirals and officers.

The send-off party included Brigadier General W.-O. Schaeffer, defense attache at the FRG Embassy in the USSR.

Gorbachev Message Delivered to Italian Leftist Party

*LD0803034591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2100 GMT 7 Mar 91*

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Drozhzhin]

[Text] Rome, 7 Mar (TASS)—Karen Brutents, deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, handed over here on Thursday, to Achille Occhetto, national secretary of the Italian Democratic Party of the Left (DPL), a message from Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the USSR. According to the ANSA news agency, the message noted that the DPL is "a historical heir of the renowned fighters for freedom and progress in Italy." The creation of the new party, and its significance in unifying all the left forces in Europe, building an all-European home, and setting up a new world order is being welcomed. The document also expresses the CPSU's solidarity with the DPL.

Achille Occhetto for his part confirmed the desire of the DPL to fight for the setting up of a new international order and the creation of a "world government" on the basis of a "deeply reinvigorated United Nations"—it was stressed in the report.

He underlined the "pressing need" that Europe play an active role in a "new world balance." At the present moment, Achille Occhetto noted, the question is to "conquer the world," to work for the calling of a peace conference on the Middle East, which would help resolve the problems of this region, and would ensure a "motherland for the Palestinians, security for Israel, independence and sovereignty for Lebanon, and respect for civil and human rights."

Netherlands Defense Spending Reduction Lauded

*PM2603143191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
25 Mar 91 Second Edition p 5*

[Report by correspondent V. Peresada: "Example of 'Junior Partners'"]

[Text] Brussels, 24 Mar—A future armed forces cut in connection with the easing of tension in Europe has been announced in the Netherlands. It is planned to be implemented by the year 2000, as is a similar project recently adopted in Belgium. The Army will be reduced by 30 percent by that time. This will be the first reorganization on such a large scale since World War II.

...I have before me detailed reports on the subject from The Hague, as well as articles from the ATLANTIC NEWS bulletin, which has close ties to NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

What does cutting the Army by approximately one-third mean? Some 40,000 people—career military men, auxiliary militiamen, and civilians—will be discharged from the Defense Ministry system in the next 10 years. That is a large number for the Netherlands, and the trade unions are already seriously concerned about the problem of

finding work for them. The ministry's budget will be cut by 2 percent a year, and will total the impressive sum of 6 billion guilders [figure and currency as published].

Needless to say, we should not assume that the Netherlands wants to divorce itself from the NATO alliance. The reorganization plan takes into account the fact that, for instance, NATO is now emphasizing mobile armed forces in Europe. That is why it is also planned to set up a special brigade equipped with helicopters and to buy new military transport aircraft, along with a number of other measures. The fact that the country's military potential as a whole will fall and will not, as ATLANTIC NEWS put it, be attuned to the previous "cold-war" strategy, is a substantive point.

Plans for armed forces cuts are also being discussed by other West European NATO members. But most of them have not even started elaborating comprehensive programs which would take account, one way or another, of the current level of military confrontation in Europe. In that sense Belgium and the Netherlands, which are called "junior partners" in NATO, are setting an instructive example for their senior NATO partners.

CPSU Secretariat Greets Various Communist Parties**Greets Portuguese Party**

*PM0603162191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
6 Mar 91 Second Edition p 1*

[CPSU Central Committee Secretariat message to Portuguese Communist Party Central Committee on occasion of 70th anniversary]

[Text] To the Portuguese Communist Party Central Committee

Dear Comrades!

We ardently congratulate the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP] on its 70th anniversary.

The PCP is rooted in the history of the Portuguese people's struggle against dictatorial regimes and their fight for the triumph of democracy in your country and in its relations with its former colonies. Today your party is a recognized political force making a weighty contribution to the defense of social progress.

We value highly the PCP's support for the CPSU course of renewing Soviet society, which is designed to reveal socialism's potential. We are convinced that the traditional friendship and solidarity between the CPSU and the PCP will be strengthened.

The CPSU Central Committee Secretariat.

Message Sent to Greeks

PM2102095791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
19 Feb 91 Second Edition p 5

[CPSU Central Committee Secretariat undated message:
"To the 13th Greek Communist Party Congress"]

[Text] We greet the delegates to the 13th Greek Communist Party [KKE] Congress.

Your congress is being held at a difficult time. This makes its decisions, which will reflect Greek Communists' views on the key issues of domestic development and the international situation, all the more weighty.

We are in solidarity with your efforts aimed at rallying the forces of social progress and strengthening peace.

We hope that the participants in the KKE forum will work fruitfully.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee Secretariat

Latin America & Caribbean

Castro Remarks at Alquizar Rally Cited

PM0504104391 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 3 Apr 91 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "F. Castro's Address"]

[Text] Alquizar (Cuba)—The Cuban leader Fidel Castro has appealed to the residents and construction industry workers of this small town to overcome all the difficulties of the "special period in peace time" and, regardless of the difficulties, to "continue to construct installations that are so necessary to the country." He addressed a rally Monday [1 April].

Speaking about the features of the period the country is going through, which is characterized by serious economic problems, F. Castro pointed out the need for the strictest economy of resources and materials since "many goods from the countries of the former socialist camp have not been arriving in Cuba for a long time now."

Whereas earlier the Soviet Union sent 0.5 million cubic meters of lumber to the island, this year no one can say when Soviet lumber will be supplied and in what quantity.

Speaking about the advantages of the centralized planning system that is in force in the country, F. Castro noted that "it is only with a united people, who have a clear program for development and live in a socialist society, that we can withstand the hard blows that have befallen Cuba in connection with the aggressive Yankee actions and the chaos prevailing in the Soviet Union."

Nicaraguan President Receives People's Deputies

LD0304110391 Moscow TASS in English 0945 GMT
3 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kochuk]

[Text] Managua April 3 TASS—A group of USSR people's deputies headed by Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Union of the Soviet Parliament Aleksandr Mokanu was received by Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro on Tuesday.

During the conversation which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere the Nicaraguan president expressed satisfaction with the current state of Soviet-Nicaraguan relations. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro spoke highly of the Soviet leaders' foreign policy course, of the Soviet efforts aimed at the consolidation of peace and cooperation among nations, also on problems related to the quest for political stability in Central America.

The Nicaraguan president described the success of the national reconciliation policy of her government and dealt with problems of the economy and external debt.

She believes that Nicaragua and the Soviet Union are now faced with largely similar problems, so the exchange of experience and strengthening of contacts at every level are of importance for both countries.

Taking into account the interest shown by the Nicaraguan president, Mokanu described the political situation in the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government's attempts to find a way out of the political and economic crisis.

On the same day the group of Soviet parliamentarians met President of the Nicaraguan National Assembly Alfredo Cesar. A substantive exchange of opinions on topical international problems was held during the conversation.

Special attention was given to the problem of achieving a lasting peace in Central America. The head of the Soviet parliamentary delegation emphasised that the Soviet Union from the very start welcomed and supported all efforts aimed at the stabilisation of Central America.

Regarding this, he noted that Soviet leaders take a positive view of the Nicaraguan proposal to turn Central America into a zone of peace, freedom, democracy and development and that the Soviet Union is prepared to help implement this initiative.

In turn, the head of the Nicaraguan parliamentarians spoke about the tasks of the National Assembly and noted that contacts between parliamentarians of the two countries should be strengthened.

Positively appraising the fact that the Soviet Union supports peace processes in Central America, Cesar

expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will continue to promote efforts to achieve an ultimate political settlement in the region.

On Tuesday Soviet MPs also met "Friends of the Soviet Union", a group of deputies of the National Assembly, and with heads of groups in the Nicaraguan Parliament.

There were exchanges of opinion on matters related to the situation in both countries. Interest in the continuation of cooperation between parliamentarians was emphasised.

Soviet MPs also had a meeting with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal. The attitudes of the two countries to topical international problems were discussed.

Consular-Level Ties Welcomed With Panama

91UF0558A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Mar 91 Second Edition p 4

[Article by Pavel Bogomolov: "Both the Atlantic and the Pacific"]

[Text] Good news from the capital of Panama—agreement has been reached there on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Panama at the general consulate level. Albeit positive, an event which is at the same time at first sight particular and local, as it were, and not meriting any special comment. Truly, will much change because one further private residence beneath our official flag will be added to the several dozen Soviet general consulates overseas?

But this is not in fact a routine occurrence. The establishment of Soviet-Panamanian relations is a notable and important stage in the process of the full-scale "institutionalization" of relations at the official level between the USSR and Latin America. It is a question in this case of a country that is, although small, a key one geopolitically, across whose territory a most important transoceanic route runs. This is the Panama Canal linking the Atlantic and the Pacific. Our merchant and fishing fleets make a multitude of voyages in their waters. Over 600 Soviet ships availed themselves of the Panama Canal last year alone, incidentally. So the uninterrupted operation of this transport artery and a propitious international atmosphere around the canal and the country as a whole are not for us a matter of indifference.

"In this case," a reader may ask, "why could direct interstate relations with Panama not have been established far sooner?"

Constructive Panamanian politicians and progressive forces of this Latin American country had long been

advocating this. For decades Moscow also had confirmed its interest in a permanent diplomatic dialogue with Panama. But the years went by and the sociopolitical coloration of the governments ruling in Panama changed, but things remained at a standstill. I will venture to assume that both conservative and progressive Panamanian leaders had on this issue also to take account of the hard line of the original owner of the Canal—the United States.

Elementary rumors and inventions even sometimes had an effect here, however regrettable it is to talk about this. There were assertions at one time even that the Soviet Union was supporting Sandinista Nicaragua not least because it was planned to dig across Nicaraguan territory—in spite of fundamental, long-term Panamanian interests—a second canal between the Atlantic and Pacific (!)

Nonetheless, the time has evidently come for a sober and calm rethinking of all that had been connected with mutual distrust in the recent past. The last suspicions that Moscow wishes to ensconce itself on the isthmus of Panama in its selfish interests are disappearing. The government of the Latin American country has seen us not as "potential aggressors" but potentially profitable partners. If long before the exchange of general consulates the Motores Internacionales Company, having established itself in Panama, was successfully selling on the huge continental market thousands of Lada's and Niva's, you can imagine how the range of our cooperation could grow in the future, when it is free of any legal and, simply, formal restrictions.

Of course, the Soviet-Panamanian thaw did not come about of its own accord but reflects in relief the dynamics of international detente as a whole. A specific boost to this qualitative change was, I believe, not that distant a decision of the USSR Government to append its signature to the protocol to the Treaty on the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal. The point being that this protocol represents a central, fundamental component in the Torrijos-Carter system of agreements, according to which the transoceanic route is to be transferred fully and, as promised, finally to Panama's jurisdiction by the year 2000.

...Commenting on the agreement on the establishment of Soviet-Panamanian relations, REUTER recalled that the armed action undertaken by Washington in 1989 was condemned by the Soviet Union. Yes, the defense of the flouted rights and legitimate interests of other peoples, as also the condemnation of any interference in others' affairs, remains today also the fundamental line of the Soviet Union pursuing a policy of new thinking in relations with all states—large and small. It is gratifying that, despite all the difficulties and nuances of the situation that has taken shape in Panama, this policy of ours is encountering a reciprocal response there.